

***Epiaeschna heros* (Fabricius)**

Swamp Darner

11 May - 29 Nov

Common

82-91 mm (3.2-3.6 in.)

Huge

MALE: Eyes: blue. Thorax: dark brown w/ 2 green stripes. Abdomen: dark brown/blackish w/ narrow green rings; S8-9 nearly all black.
Wings: smoky. Stigmas: brown. Legs: black (reddish femora). Appendages: black. Looks dark in flight.

FEMALE: Appendages: elongate—oval/leaf-like.

JUVENILE: Wings: tinted yellow in middle 3/5, clear basal/tip.

Habitat: Widespread over rivers and open areas; shady ponds and forested swamps; slow streams. Feeds from 3' above ground to treetops; perches by hanging vertically from high tree branches. Migratory. Forages late afternoon, early evening/dusk.

Reproduction: Male does not hold territory or patrol over water. Female oviposits alone in wet wood, logs, mud, stems up to 6' above water in fishless marshes/swamps. Exuviae in swampy environments on vegetation not far above water.

Notes: Migrates. Old name: Hero Darner.

Similar Species: *Nasiaeschna pentacantha* (Cyrano D.) is smaller w/ irregularly-shaped stripes on the sides of the thorax/green marking (not rings) on the abdomen.

Locations: Benson Branch, Browns Bridge, Centennial , Farm Ponds, Font Hill, Hipsely Mill, Kindler P, Schooley Mill, Stevens - E, Vantage Point - S, Warfield's Pond.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)