

***Lestes forcipatus* Rambur**

Sweetflag Spreadwing

20 Jul - 26 Sep

Uncommon

MALE: 36-42.5 mm (1.4-1.7 in.) FEMALE: 33-40.5 (1.3-1.6)

Medium

MALE: Head: black. Eyes: dark blue. Face: turquoise/light blue. Thorax: dark, somewhat metallic copper, gray below w/ brown spotting. Abdomen: dorsally dark, hint of rings, ventrally lighter except carina dark; S9-10 white pruinosity. Legs: light, femur w/ black stripe; spines black. Stigmas: brown. Appendages: blackish, hairy, distal tooth of cerci always distinctly smaller than basal tooth.

FEMALE: Stouter than male. Lighter bronze. Thorax: humeral stripes greenish-gray. Abdomen: S9 brown/swollen; S10 pale. Extremely long ovipositor (brown) extending beyond tip of abdomen. Wings: slightly flavescent (?).

JUVENILE: Thorax: dorsal/shoulder stripes dull yellow--green. Abdomen: bronze-black above, pale yellow below.

Habitat: Permanent reedy ponds/temporary pools w/ seasonally-fluctuating water levels/emergent vegetation. Bog, lake/pond edges; tolerates seasonal water draw down. Adults fly slowly in and out of emergent vegetation along shore or nearby grassy fields.

Reproduction: Female may oviposit in tandem halfway up stem of *Sparganium* (Bur-reed), on *Acorus* (Sweetflag)/emergent vegetation. Delayed egg development (diapause).

Similar species: Male is confusing; safest ID by association w/ female.

Locations: Centennial - VP, Font Hill, Gateway - SM, Kindler - P, Stevens - E.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)