

Criteria for Proof of Breeding in dragonflies

➤ **Successful Breeding**

Confirmed - exuvia present (presence of an exuvia constitutes absolute proof that at least one specimen has completed a cycle from egg to adult at the site).

Probable - larva present or female ovipositing or teneral (newly emerged adult) or regular presence of both sexes (normally annual presence in reasonable numbers or a repeated period consistent with the species' life-cycle length). All records to be at, or adjacent to, a suitable water body.

In the case of Willow Emerald Damselfly *Chalcolestes viridis*, oviposition scars may remain visible in the over-hanging branches of various tree species for some years. If found, these scars should be recorded as a single female ovipositing in the most recent breeding season, but only a year date can be given for these records.

➤ **Possible Breeding** – pair copulating or female seen at a water body suitable for the species where at least one male has been observed to be engaged in some form of reproductive behaviour, such as territoriality or pursuing females.

➤ **Adult(s) Present**, but none of the above breeding evidence or behaviour observed.

Notes:

Care should be taken with breeding records at water bodies less than 1 year old, especially those newly created with imported weed that might contain larvae.

For outside agencies seeking 'Proof of Breeding' everything in 'Successful Breeding' would be included.

In 'Probable Successful Breeding', the 'repeated period consistent with species' life-cycle length' will be different for different species. For example in bivoltine species there will be two 'repeats' per year, but for semivoltine species the repeated time span will be two years, and so forth for other species.

Also in 'Probable Successful Breeding', oviposition scars of Willow Emerald should be year dated to the most recent breeding season. For example, scars found early in 2012, before adults are reported on the wing, should be dated 2011, whereas scars after the start of the 2012 flight season should be given that year date, as we cannot be certain they occurred earlier.

The Adult(s) Present category is included to tie in with the established recording scheme and to provide a place to put all those records that fail to meet the criteria for Breeding, but which may contribute to that evidence in the future.

It was noted that it is vital that the above criteria should not replace the recording of raw data and this must be stressed whenever the criteria are published. One of the main uses of these criteria is for dealing with outside bodies.