

Northern Damselfly

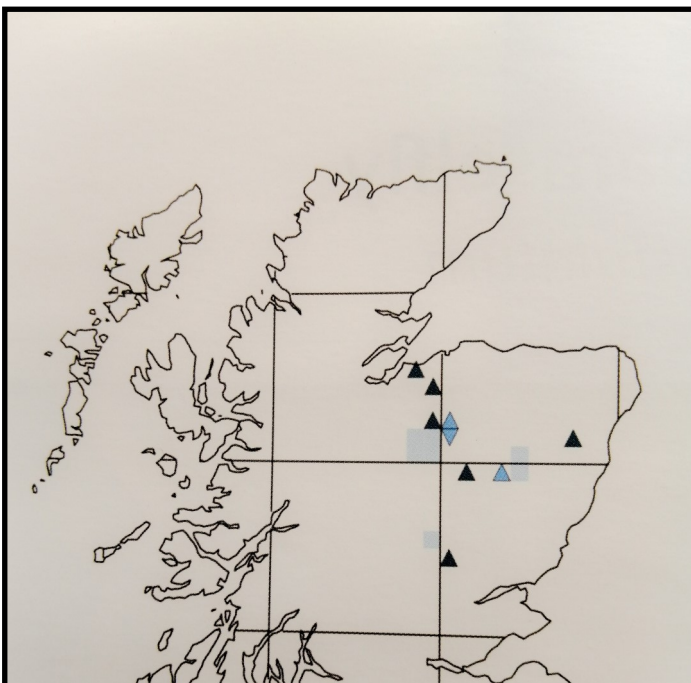


Citizen Science Survey 2019

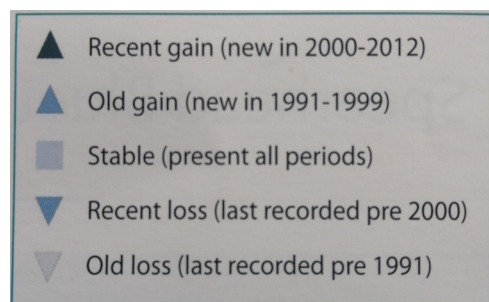
All the information you need to find and identify Northern Damselflies

Where and when to find them:

Known Sites



Legend



Source: Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland. S. Cham *et al.* (2014).

Northern Damselflies prefer standing waters from well-vegetated ponds/lochans to tiny pools in acid mires. Larvae prefer emergent vegetation often clinging to Water Horsetail and pondweeds.



Adult Northern Damselflies can be seen June to July (occasionally May and August)

Identification of adults

Full length: 31 mm

Tenerals (newly emerged adults): Pale, like females, with a pink/orange tinge.

Male: segment 2 has a rather variable, spear-head shaped marking like the spade symbol in a pack of cards. Segment 8 and segment 9 are blue except for 2 small black spots on S9.

Females: pea green from the side but mostly black from above. Underside of eyes and face are green in both sexes.

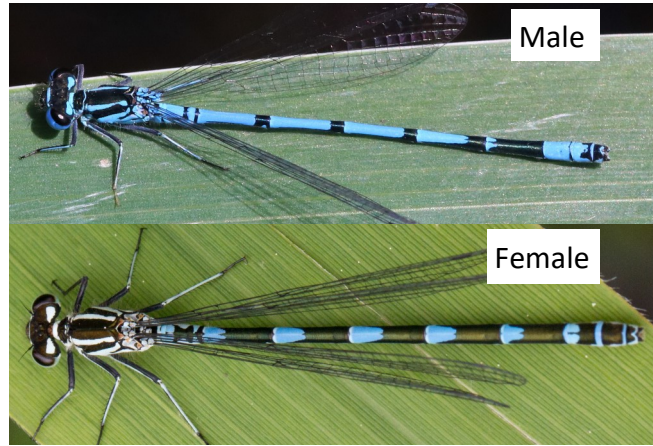


Similar species include:

Common Blue Damselfly

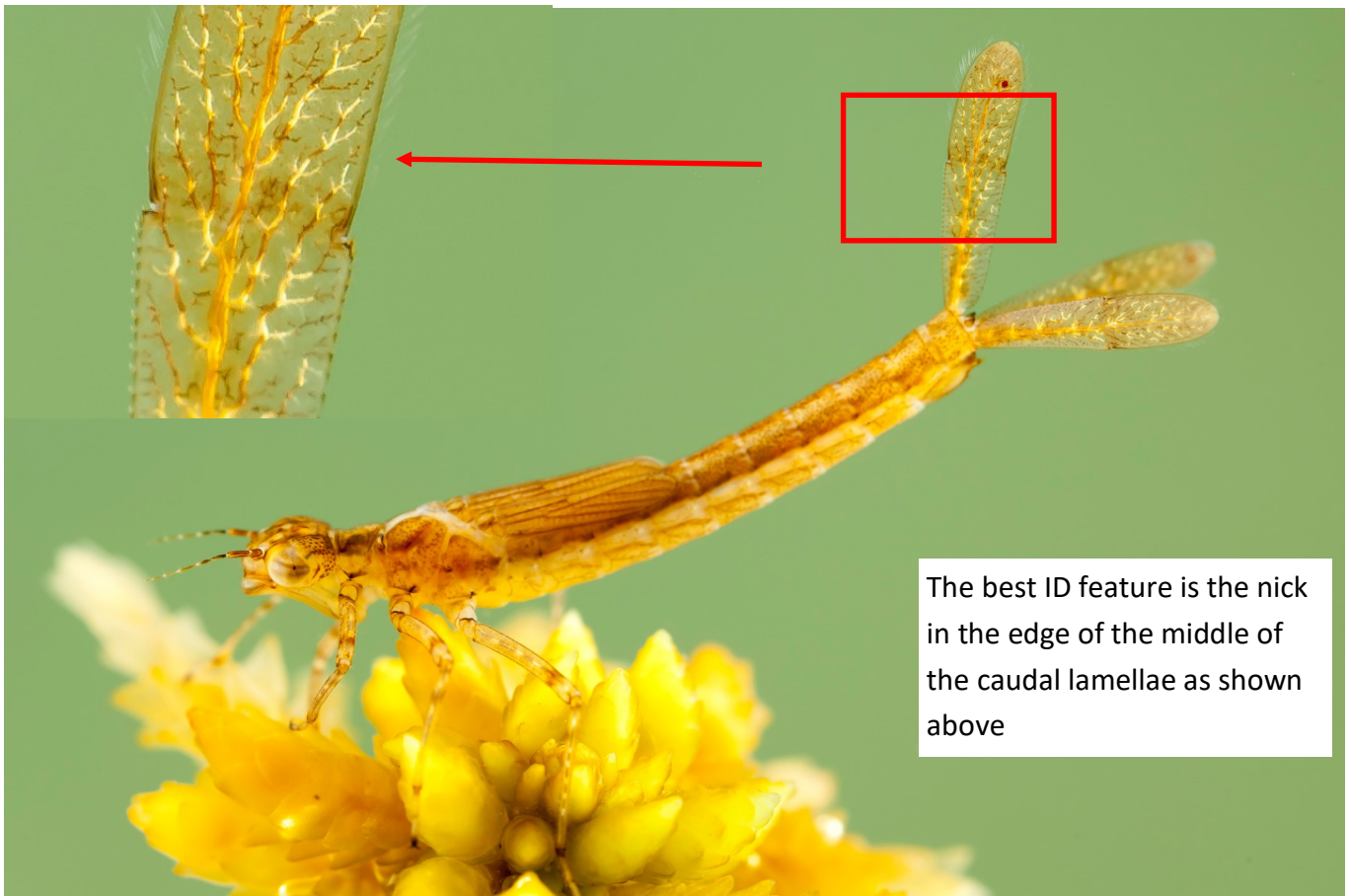


Azure Damselfly



Northern Damselflies can be told apart from the other species of blue Damselflies by their slightly smaller size, the distinctive spear marking on S2 on the males and the almost totally black abdomen of the females from above. In addition, the similar species can be found flying into September.

Identification of larvae



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Mating and egg laying

Mating is initiated when males grasp the females around the back of the head using their abdominal claspers (this position is referred to as being 'in tandem'). The female then brings her abdomen up to meet the male's, forming the wheel position. Males remain in tandem with females during egg laying (oviposition). Eggs are laid on the underside of floating and emergent vegetation, and floating debris.



Useful Resources and References

- Field Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland by Steve Brooks and Steve Cham (2014): illustrated guide. ISBN-13: 9780956490285
- Britain's Dragonflies by Dave Smallshire and Andy Swash (2014): photo identification guide with illustrated ID featured chart. ISBN-13: 9780691161235
- Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland by Steve Cham *et al* (2014): distribution and habitat guide. ISBN-13: 9781906698492

Image credits: male adult (cover page), habitat and larvae images by Christophe Brochard; male and female adults by Iain Leach; male Azure Damselfly and female Common Blue by David Smallshire; female Azure Damselfly by Joanne Hood; male Common Blue by Gareth William Tonks; mating Northern Damselflies by Richard Pegler.

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