Finding and Identifying White-legged Damselflies

White-legged Damselfly Investigation Project
Find out more by visiting the project page under ‘Other Projects’ in the ‘Recording’ section of the BDS website.

www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

White-legged Damselfly Counties

White-legged Damselflies are found as far north as Staffordshire and as far west Powys.
While widespread they are not a common species.

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Habitat

White-legged Damselflies prefer slow flowing streams and rivers, but will also use lakes and pools. Adult White-legged Damselflies can usually be seen between late May and mid-August.

Identification

**Male:** Pale blue body and blue eyes. **Females:** Creamy body with pale eyes. **Teneral (newly emerged adults):** Pale, like females, with a pink/orange tinge.

Mating Behaviour

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.

Egg laying

Males remain in tandem with females during egg laying (oviposition). Eggs are laid on the underside of floating and emergent vegetation, and floating debris.

Similar Species

Common Blue Damselfly on left, Azure Damselfly on right (males top, females bottom). Other species of blue/black damselfly have much brighter coloration, and thicker black markings.