

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code: IIDODO45040

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Libellula composita*

COMMON NAME: Bleached Skimmer

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Libellulidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Hagen, 1973.

TYPE LOCALITY: Unknown

TYPE SPECIMEN: Unknown

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are 21+ species in this genus.

DESCRIPTION: A medium sized dragonfly with a white face, white eyes, white costal veins, an amber spot at each wing base, and wing nodus and black stigmas. The front of the female's thorax is brown, her sides are white and her abdomen is black with interrupted dorsolateral yellow stripes. In males, the thorax and the base of the abdomen turn pale blue, while the rest of the abdomen turns black. The larva has no lateral spines on abdominal segments 8 or 9 but has brown dorsolateral stripes on segments 7-10. The total length is 1.65-1.88 in (42-48 mm); the abdomen is 1.10-1.29 in (28-33 mm); and the hindwing is 1.29-1.45 in (33-37 mm).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: A medium sized dragonfly with a white face, white eyes, white costal veins, an amber spot at each wing base and black stigmas. The front of the female's thorax is brown, her sides are white and her abdomen is black with interrupted dorsolateral yellow stripes. In males, the thorax and the base of the abdomen turn pale blue, while the rest of the abdomen turns black.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Color photo (Radke *in*

http://www.rt66.com/~kjherman/odonata/df-Libellula_comp_N.html).

Color photo (Beckemeyer *in* <http://www.windsofkansas.com/tandem.html>).

TOTAL RANGE: Scattered localities (known only from 14 counties) in arid Great Basin, from southeastern Oregon to northern Utah, south to eastern California and southern Arizona and New Mexico, and also found in Texas and Kansas.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Southern Arizona.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: Unknown

REPRODUCTION: In hot springs the adults oviposit directly into the hot water, and the larvae live in cooler spring runs. The larvae overwinter and the flight season is mid June to late August.

FOOD HABITS: The adults forage in brushlands, and as adults and immatures they are invertivores.

HABITAT: They can be found in ponds and streams with emergent vegetation, usually spring fed, sometimes alkaline, in open arid country. They can also be found in hot springs in the northern part of their range. The nymphs live among the muck at the bottom of ponds and stream pools.

ELEVATION: Unknown

PLANT COMMUNITY: Unknown

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

STATE STATUS:

OTHER STATUS:

None. USDA, FS Region 3, 2013
Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3
1999)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Two of the threats to the population are trampling of their habitat by livestock, and the emergent vegetation in their ponds being eliminated by livestock.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Unknown

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: A study of basic larval ecology, especially temperature and alkalinity tolerance in comparison to other odonates needs to be performed.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Unknown

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

- Beckemeyer, R.J Available at <http://www.windsofkansas.com/tandem.html>.
- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available:<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 6, 2002).
- Radke, W. Available at http://www.rt66.com/~kjherman/odonata/df-Libellula_comp_N.html.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 2013. Regional Forester's List of Sensitive Animals.
- Voshell, J. R. 2002. A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America. The McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company. Blacksburg, Virginia. Pp:302.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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