

**DROMOGOMPHUS SPOLIATUS (ODONATA: GOMPHIDAE):
NEW FOR MICHIGAN**

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ABSTRACT

Dromogomphus spoliatus is a medium-sized gomphid previously unknown from Michigan. A small population was found at Oakwoods Metropark in Wayne County, Michigan.

Dromogomphus spoliatus (Hagen in Selys, 1858) was not previously known from Michigan (Byers 1927, Kormondy 1958, MOS 2002). It is one of three species of *Dromogomphus* (spinylegs) known from the United States, all of which are characterized by long, comb-like hind femora that are armed with long spines (Dunkle 2000). *D. spoliatus* is moderately-sized (~6 cm), with a distinctive orange, vertically-flattened abdominal club.

D. spoliatus has been recorded in Ontario (Pratt 2002), and fifteen east-central states from Ohio through Texas (Bick and Mauffray 2002, Dunkle 2000). In the upper Midwest, there are records from 20 counties in Ohio, primarily in the western half of the state (Glotzhober and McShaffrey 2002); 20 counties in Indiana, primarily in southern Indiana (Curry 2001); and eleven counties in Illinois (Kondratieff 2000).

Habitat for *D. spoliatus* includes mud-bottomed ponds, lakes, and slow rivers with clear to muddy water (Dunkle 2000). On 25 August 2002, we observed five *D. spoliatus* along the Huron River and a nearby mud-bottomed pond at Oakwoods Metropark in southern Wayne County, Michigan. The river at this location is slow, wide, and marshy, with numerous large patches of emergent vegetation dominated by lily pads. The shoreline consists of mowed grass and a gravel boat launch ramp. The pond is located in a forest clearing, with a wide, mowed, grassy margin; grass extends to the water's edge in most places although there were limited patches of damp mud around the shore.

On 6 September 2002 C. Freeman located four individuals slightly downstream from our original sighting location while searching by canoe. The shoreline at this spot is away from the mowed boat launch area, the banks are lined with trees and woody vegetation, and there are extensive patches of lily pads. Freeman was able to secure a voucher specimen.

DISCUSSION

D. spoliatus is a species that was expected to be found in Michigan (MOS 1998). In Ohio, adult specimens have been taken from 21 June to 27 September, with a peak in mid- to late July (N = 96) (Glotzhober and McShaffrey 2002). In Indiana, the flight period is from 9 June to 11 September (Curry 2001). Thus, our discovery of this species came near the end of the flight season. Searches of this portion of the Huron River earlier in the summer, particularly by canoe, might reveal a larger population of *D. spoliatus* than we observed. It might seem difficult to understand why such a large, territorial, conspicuous dragonfly such as *D. spoliatus* would go previously unnoticed at such a heavily used location. It's possible that the very dry summers of 2001 and 2002, which resulted in lower water levels in the river, exposed more open spots along the shore near the canoe launch. These types of site are favored for perching (Dunkle 2000, Curry 2001).

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The voucher specimen is deposited in the collection of the Univ. Michigan Museum of Zoology, Insect Division, and catalogued by the Michigan Odonata Survey.

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