

# Mustached Clubtail (*Gomphus adelphus*)

## *Pennsylvania Invertebrate Species of Concern*

**State Rank: S3S4 (vulnerable), Global Rank: G4 (apparently secure)**

### What it looks like:

The mustached clubtail is a small (4.3 to 4.8 centimeters, or about two inches, long) dragonfly patterned in black and yellowish green. The upper surface of the head is black and the thorax yellow with black stripes, notably a black band running back to front on the upper surface which divides into two stripes towards a yellow collar at the front of the thorax. The abdomen is black.



Photo by David Westover,  
from Kondratieff 2000

### Where it is found:

Mustached clubtail adults are found near riffles in clear streams and sometimes along lakeshores, where they often rest on low vegetation. The larvae are aquatic, burrowing into streambeds below riffles. The species ranges from Quebec and Ontario south to North Carolina and Tennessee and west into Minnesota.

### Why it is rare:

Because their life cycle involves both terrestrial and aquatic phases, dragonflies are particularly sensitive to disturbances of stream and lake habitats. Water pollution can harm the larvae; clearing of stream- and lake-shore vegetation deprives the adults of habitat.

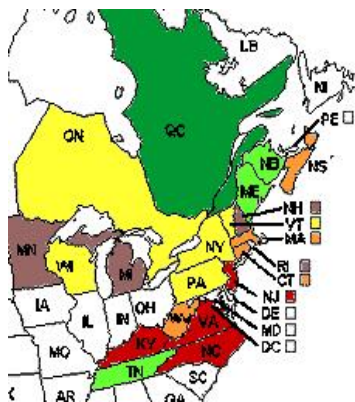
### Pennsylvania Distribution by County



▲ current data • records > 30 years old (1975)  
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program data 2005

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



#### State/Province Status Ranks

	<b>SX</b> – presumed extirpated
	<b>SH</b> – possibly extirpated
	<b>S1</b> – critically imperiled
	<b>S2</b> – imperiled
	<b>S3</b> – vulnerable
	<b>S4</b> – apparently secure
	<b>S5</b> – secure
	Not ranked/under review

### Conservation considerations:

Protection of the mustached clubtail will require preservation and restoration of both the terrestrial stream-side habitat of the adult and the aquatic habitat of the larvae. The species can benefit from reduction of fertilizer and pesticide runoff, as well as planting of vegetative buffers along streams.



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### References

- Kondratieff, Boris C. (coordinator). 2000. "Dragonflies and Damselflies (Odonata) of the United States [web application]." Version 12DEC2003. Jamestown, ND: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Online. Available at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/insects/dfly/dflyusa.htm>. Accessed 23 December 2004.
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- Needham, James G.; Minter J. Westfall, Jr.; and Michael L. May. 2000. *Dragonflies of North America*, Revised Edition. Washington: Scientific Publishers. 340-1.