

Big Bluet (*Enallagma durum*)

Pennsylvania Damselfly Species of Concern

State Rank: S3 (Vulnerable) Global Rank: G5 (Secure)

Identification

While all bluet damselflies are superficially similar in appearance, the big bluet (*Enallagma durum*) is relatively easily to distinguish from other bluets. One of the largest bluets in Pennsylvania at 1.3- to 1.7-inches the males of this species also have arrow-shaped black markings along the top of their abdomen. Females, which may have either a green or blue body, are distinguishable from other bluet females by their large size, but positive identification can only be accomplished by examining them under a microscope.

Range

Noted along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico through Florida and northward to Maine.



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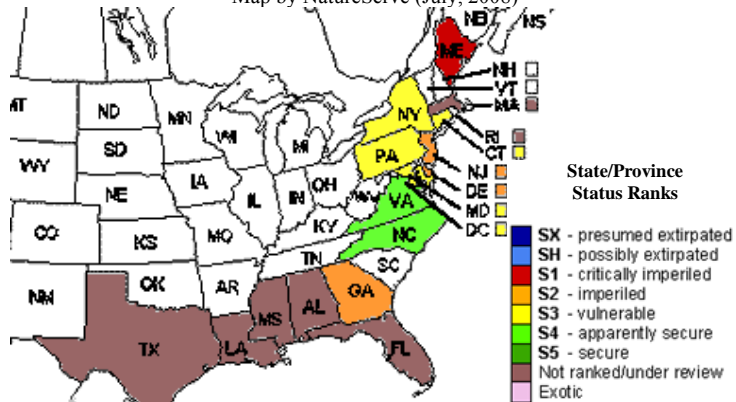
Adult male Big Bluet (*Enallagma durum*)

Habitat

This species is noted from coastal and tidal waters often favoring brackish wetlands. Also found near ponds and large, slow rivers near the shore, this species is noted from the lower Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers in the Commonwealth.

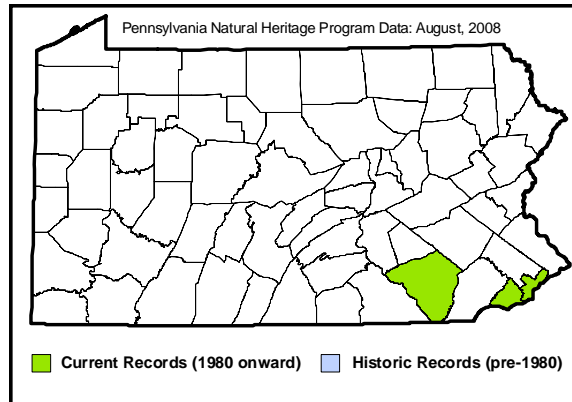
North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (July, 2008)



Conservation Status

Preservation of this species in the Commonwealth will require the protection and restoration of the few areas of remaining tidal marsh along the Delaware River. Additionally, shade-providing vegetation along marsh and river edges appears to be important to maintaining populations of this species and will need to be restored in areas where it has been removed.



References

- Lam, E. Damselflies of the Northeast; A guide to the species of eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. Biodiversity Books; Forest Hill, NY, 2004.
- NatureServe. 2008. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.0. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Nikula, B., Loose, J.L., and M.R. Burne. A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, 2003.
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2008.

