



Male
Wandering Ringtail
Austrolestes leda



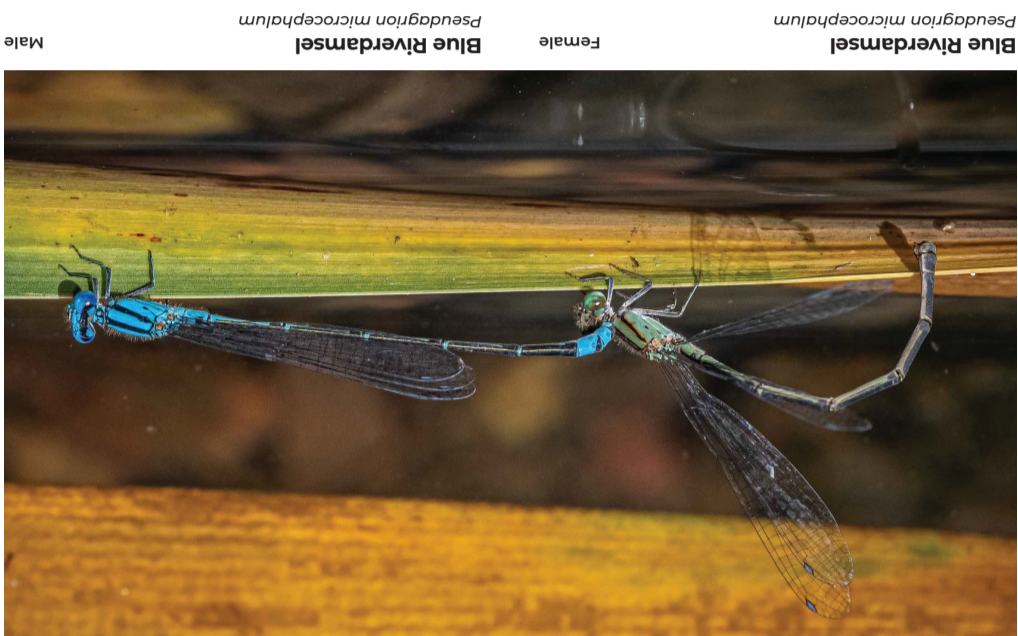
Female
Wandering Ringtail
Austrolestes leda



Male
Common Flatwing
Austroglotides icteromelas



Female
Common Flatwing
Austroglotides icteromelas



Male
Blue Riverdamselfly
Pseudagrion microcephalum

Female
Blue Riverdamselfly
Pseudagrion microcephalum



Male
Common Bluetail
Ischnura heterosticta



Female
Common Bluetail
Ischnura heterosticta

Damselflies

Brisbane's Common Odonata (Dragonfly & Damselfly)

The insect order Odonata contains two suborders: Anisoptera (dragonflies) (below left) and Zygoptera (damselflies) (below right). They are often difficult to tell apart. Generally, you can distinguish between the two sub-orders in that dragonflies:

- Are usually larger and more robust than damselflies;
- Fly more directly, rather than flutter like damselflies;
- Hold their wings flat while perching, while damselflies hold their wings closed above their bodies;
- Have hindwings of a different shape than forewings, whereas damselflies wings are very similar, and
- Have eyes that are much closer together (sometimes even touching), while damselflies' eyes are usually clearly separated.

There are, of course, some important exceptions to the above criteria. For example, the flatwings (Argiolestidae), a common damselfly genus in Southeast Queensland, hold their wings—as their name suggests—flat while perching. The Diphlebia (rockmasters) are strong and powerful damselflies that fly strongly and dwarf several dragonfly species, such as the pygmy percher (*Nannodiplax rubra*). There are a number of other exceptions as well.

This brochure includes images of the 27 most commonly recorded Odonata species in the Brisbane local government area on the website inaturalist.ala.org.au at Feb 2022.



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Brisbane's Common Odonata (Dragonfly & Damselfly)

In memory of Dennis Reeves (1933-2017) a long-standing member of the Queensland Naturalists' Club, and a passionate odonatologist.

Acknowledgments:

Doug Smith
Photos and identification

Greg Neill
Photos and drafting layout

Dragonflies



Blue Skimmer
Orthetrum caledonicum Female



Blue Skimmer
Orthetrum caledonicum Male



Chalky Percher
Diplacodes trivialis Female



Chalky Percher
Diplacodes trivialis Male



Scarlet Percher
Diplacodes haematodes Female



Scarlet Percher
Diplacodes haematodes Male



Yellow-striped Flutterer
Rhythemis phyllis Sexes similar



Graphic Flutterer
Rhythemis graphiptera Sexes similar



Fiery Skimmer
Orthetrum villosovittatum Female



Fiery Skimmer
Orthetrum villosovittatum Male



Black-headed Skimmer
Crocothemis nigrifrons Female



Black-headed Skimmer
Crocothemis nigrifrons Male



Wandering Percher
Diplacodes bipunctata Female



Wandering Percher
Diplacodes bipunctata Male



Australian Tiger
Ictinogomphus australis Male



Australian Emerald
Hemicordulia australiae Sexes similar



Red Arrow
Rhodothemis lieftincki Female



Red Arrow
Rhodothemis lieftincki Male



Black-faced Percher
Diplacodes melanopsis Female



Black-faced Percher
Diplacodes melanopsis Male



Slender Skimmer (Green Marsh Hawk)
Orthetrum sabina Sexes similar



Common Glider
Tramea loewii Sexes similar



Water Prince
Hydrobasileus brevistylus Sexes similar



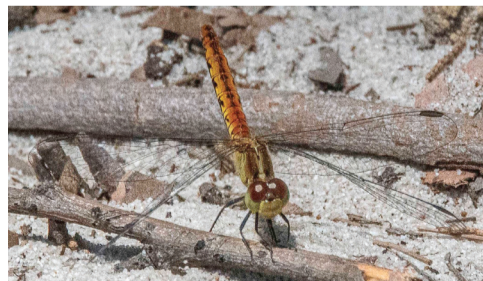
Yellow-tipped Tigertail
Choristhemis flavoterminata Sexes similar



Palemouth
Brachydiplax denticauda Female



Palemouth
Brachydiplax denticauda Male



Pygmy Percher
Nannodiplax rubra Female



Pygmy Percher
Nannodiplax rubra Male



Australian Emperor
Anax papuensis Sexes similar



Pale Hunter
Austrogomphus amphilictus Sexes similar



Stout Vicetail
Hemigomphus heteroclytus Sexes similar



Blue-spotted Hawker
Adversaeschna brevistyla Sexes similar