

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES

Photo credits for all (unless otherwise specified): Robin Ngiam

SUBORDER ANISOPTERA: DRAGONFLIES

BLACK DRAGONFLIES

Common Flangetail
Ictinogomphus decoratus
Size: 64 – 68 mm



- It is a large dragonfly with greenish-yellow markings on a black body.
- Males and females are similar in appearance.

Yellow-barred Flutterer
Rhyothemis phyllis
Size: 39 – 41 mm



- The base of its hindwing is marked by two dark bars with yellow in the middle.
- Males and females are similar in appearance.

Variagated Green Skimmer
Orthetrum sabina
Size: 47 – 52 mm



Photo credit: Elliott Ong

- Its body has pale yellowish-green markings.
- Males and females are similar in appearance.

BLACK DRAGONFLIES

Banded Skimmer
Pseudothemis jorina
Size: 37 – 38 mm



Male



Female

Photo credit: Tang Hung Bun

- The male has a black body with a cream-to-white coloured band at the top of its abdomen.
- The female has a yellow abdomen with black markings.

BLUE DRAGONFLIES

Common Chaser
Potamarcha congener
 Size: 43 – 45 mm



Male



Female

Photo credit: Tang Hung Bun

- The male is powdery blue in colour. The majority of its abdomen is black with orange markings.
- The female has yellow and black markings on its thorax. The abdomen is black with dull orange markings. Notably, it has conspicuous flaps near the tip of the abdomen.

Blue Dasher
Brachydiplax chalybea
 Size: 33 – 35 mm



Male



Female

- The male has a powdery blue body with a black abdomen tip.
- The female is brownish-yellow with a dark streak along its abdomen.

BLUE DRAGONFLIES

Common Blue Skimmer
Orthetrum glaucum
 Size: 41 – 46 mm



- The male has a dark blue thorax and a light blue abdomen with a darkened tip. There is a dark patch at the base of the hindwing.
- The female is light brown in colour.

Trumpet Tail
Acisoma panorpoides
 Size: 27 – 29 mm



- This species has a characteristic trumpet-shaped abdomen that is wide at the top with a tapered end.
- The male is light blue with dark markings.
- The female is greenish-yellow with similar markings.

RED DRAGONFLIES

Common Parasol
Neurothemis fluctuans
Size: 30 – 34 mm



Male



Female

Photo credit (for female):
Goh Pei Shuan

- The male has a brownish-red body and similarly coloured wings with clear tips.
- The female is light brown with dark markings along the sides of the abdomen. Its wings are clear.

Common Scarlet
Crocothemis servilia
Size: 40 – 43 mm



Male



Female

Photo credit (for female): Goh Pei Shuan

- The male is red with a dark line along the abdomen.
- This dark line distinguishes it from the Common Redbolt.
- The female has a light brown body with a similar dark line along the abdomen.

Common Redbolt
Rhodothemis rufa
Size: 41 – 44 mm



Male



Female

- The male is red throughout.
- It lacks the distinct dark band along the abdomen as in the Common Scarlet.
- The female is brown in colour with a bright yellow streak that extends from the thorax to the top of the abdomen.

RED DRAGONFLIES

Spine-tufted Skimmer
Orthetrum chrysis
Size: 41 – 48 mm



Male



Female

- The male has dark grey eyes, a dark brown thorax, and a red abdomen. It is easily confused with the Scarlet Skimmer.
- The female is reddish-brown in colour.

Crimson Drogwing
Trithemis aurora
Size: 32 – 35 mm



Male



Female

- The male has red eyes and a bright pink body.
- The female is light brown with black markings along the sides of the abdomen.

Grenadier
Agrionoptera insignis
Size: 37 – 41 mm



- It has yellow markings on its thorax, and a thin, primarily red abdomen with a black tip.
- Males and females are similar in appearance.

RED DRAGONFLIES

Scarlet Basker

Urothemis signata insignata
Size: 42 – 45 mm



Photo credit (for female): Tang Hung Bun

- The male is red with two black diamond-shaped spots on tip of the abdomen.
- The female is yellowish-brown in colour with an amber patch at the base of the hindwing.

Scarlet Skimmer

Orthetrum testaceum
Size: 43 – 48 mm



- The male has light brownish-grey eyes, an orange-brown thorax, and a bright red abdomen. The colour of its thorax distinguishes it from the Spine-tufted Skimmer.
- The female is yellowish-brown with clear wings.

YELLOW AND ORANGE DRAGONFLIES

Wandering Glider
Pantala flavescens
 Size: 45 – 47 mm



- It is a primarily yellow dragonfly with diamond-shaped spots along its abdomen and very broad hindwings.
- Males and females are similar in appearance.

Common Amberwing
Brachythemis contaminata
 Size: 29 – 31 mm



Photo credit (for female):
 Tang Hung Bun

- The wings of the male are tinted deep amber, and have clear tips.
- The female is light brown in colour and has yellowish-orange wing spots.

White-barred Duskhawk
Tholymis tillarga
 Size: 44 – 47 mm



- The male has a dull orange body with light brown and white patches on each hindwing.
- The female is pale brown in colour and has clear wings.

SUBORDER ZYGOPTERA: DAMSELFLIES

Blue Sprite

Pseudagrion microcephalum

Size: 30 – 34 mm



Male



Female

Photo credit: Tang Hung Bun

- The male is sky-blue with black markings.
- The female is light brown in colour with greenish markings.

Ornate Coraltail

Ceragrion cerinorubellum

Size: 35 – 38 mm



Male



Female

Photo credit: Jeevan Jose / Creative Commons CC BY-SA 4.0

- The male has a pale bluish-green head and thorax. Both ends of its abdomen are orange-red.
- The female is similar to the male but paler.

SUBORDER ZYGOPTERA: DAMSELFLIES

Common Bluetail
Ischnura senegalensis
Size: 28 – 30 mm



Male



Female

- The male has a green head and thorax. Its abdomen has an azure blue tip.
- The female is variable in colour. It can be olive, golden orange, or may even look exactly like the male.

Variable Wisp
Agriocnemis femina
Size: 20 – 22 mm



Male (mature)



Male (young)



Females (mature female feeding on a young female)



Female (young)

Photo credit
(for mature female): Cai Yixiong

- Young males have a greenish thorax and a dark abdomen with an orange tip.
- Mature males have a white thorax and a dark coloured abdomen.
- Young females have a bright red body.
- Mature females look like young males but are duller in colour.