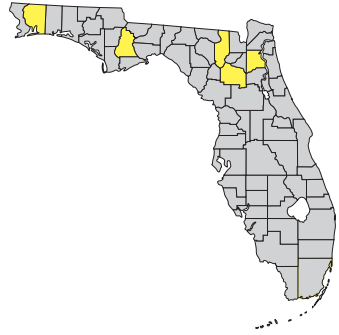


## SAY'S SPIKETAIL

### *Cordulegaster sayi*

<b>Order:</b>	Odonata
<b>Family:</b>	Cordulegastridae
<b>FNAI Ranks:</b>	G2/S1S2
<b>U.S. Status:</b>	None
<b>FL Status:</b>	None



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**Description:** A large dragonfly (2.4 - 2.7 in. = 60 - 69 mm). Thorax and abdomen are black with yellow, magenta, and white bands. Eyes are green-gray and meet at one point on the top of the head. Female ovipositor extends just beyond the tip of the abdomen.

**Similar Species:** Two other spiketails occur in Florida: the twin-spotted spiketail (*Cordulegaster maculata*) has blue eyes and rows of yellowish spots down the abdomen rather than bands; the arrowhead spiketail

## SAY'S SPIKETAIL

## *Cordulegaster sayi*

(*Cordulegaster obliqua*) has blue eyes and pale yellow arrowhead marking on the top of the abdomen. Darners (Aeshnidae) have very large eyes that meet in a seam on the top of the head. Cruisers (Macrommiidae) have very long legs, and the eyes meet in seam along the top of the head. Clubtails (Gomphidae) and Petaltails (Petaluridae) have widely spaced eyes.

**Habitat:** Silt-bottom seepage streams in hardwood forests. Forages in open woodlands and clearings.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Flight season is from February through April.

**Florida Distribution:** Spotty distribution across northern Florida including Clay, Alachua, Columbia, Liberty, and Santa Rosa counties.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Same as Florida distribution.

**Conservation Status:** Known from at least three conservation areas: Blackwater River State Forest; Toreya State Park, and Goldhead Branch State Park.

**Protection and Management:** Protect seepage streams and surrounding uplands that feed the seepage stream habitat through percolation. Pesticide use in the vicinity of seepage streams may be harmful to this species.

**Selected References:** Deyrup and Franz (eds.) 1994, Dunkle 1989, 2000.