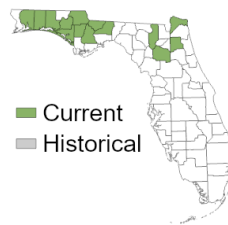


SAY'S SPIKETAIL

Zoraena sayi

Order: Odonata
Family: Cordulegasteridae
FNAI Ranks: G3/S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



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 (*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 (Macromiidae) 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: Panhandle and northern peninsula. Known distribution extends from Santa Rosa County to Clay County and includes records for every Panhandle county except Escambia (Keppner, 2013, 2015).

Range-wide Distribution: Same as Florida distribution.

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

Protection and Management: No development or land use pattern changes should take place near seepage streams with known breeding sites without careful consideration of potential impacts on this species. Upland vegetation surrounding seepage ravines should be managed for natural communities; sandhill maintenance or restoration is especially important. Pesticide use near seepage streams and in adjacent uplands should be eliminated (Deyrup and Franz, 1994). Clearings should be maintained near the breeding sites for this species. Avoid impoundment of all seepage streams, and breach any such dams to restore free-flowing streams.

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



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