Tetragoneuria cynosura (Say)

Common Baskettail

Abundant

38-43 mm (1.5-1.7 in.)

Medium

MALE: Head: front yellow. Eyes: blue (often w/ metallic green band). Thorax: light brown w/ dense pale white hair. Abdomen: stout, brown w/ yellow or reddish lateral abdominal spots. Legs: brown, becoming black. HWs: some have large brown basal triangular spot (form simulans).

FEMALE: Abdomen: wider/flatter w/ larger spots than male. Appendages: short.

JUVENILE: Eyes: red-brown.

- Habitat: High numbers at edge of dirt road; ponds, swamps, slow-moving sections of streams and rivers; permanent quiet waters. Peak activity in late afternoon. Forages 4-10' over sunny forest openings, fields, and water. Perches obliquely on stems of low vegetation.
- **Reproduction:** Male patrols short stretches, perches often; territories often above a patch of algae or submerged vegetation. Mating in flight for 5 minutes. Female oviposits egg- ball on submerged plant; ball unrolls into gelatinous rope. Larvae are climbers; can tolerate some organic pollution. Exuviae on emergent vegetation ~8" above water. Large numbers emerge over a few days. Usually one generation/year.
- **Notes:** Was *Epitheca cynosura*. Feeds w/ fast erratic flight; perches occasionally on weed stems or twigs w/ body at oblique angle to growth. Roller-coaster flight.
- Locations: Browns Bridge, Carmax, Centennial, David Force, Deep Run, Font Hill, Gateway AE/JM/RF/SM, Guilford GV/Park, Hugg-Thomas #2, Jackson Pond, Kindler D, Long Corner P/PR, Mayfield Woods, Mission, MPEA P3/P4, Milk Plant FP, Pigtail, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Sewell's Orchard, Stevens W, Swansfield, UMDCF S, Warfield's Pond.

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