**Ischnura verticalis** (Say)  
**Eastern Forktail**  
8 Apr - 30 Oct

**Abundant**

**MALE:** 20-33 mm (0.8-1.3 in.) **FEMALE:** 24.5-33 (1.0-1.3)  
**Small**

**MALE:** Head: dark w/ tiny round postocular bright green spots. Face: yellow-green/blue-green. eyes: black above, green below. Thorax: black w/ shoulder stripes bright lime-green (infrequently broken like I. posita). Abdomen: metallic green, S1-7 dorsal black; ventral S1-3 yellow-green, S4-7 yellowish; S8-9 sky blue above w/ lateral variable black marks. Legs: pale w/ black stripes. Stigmas: FW dark edged w/ orange-brown, HW tan. Appendages: black/dark.

**FEMALE:** Darkens quickly from juvenile, then becomes covered w/ gray-blue pruinosity. Several color forms (heterochromatic), often changing dramatically as they mature. Sternum of S8 w/ distinct posterior spine (before ovipositor).

**JUVENILE:** Female is red or orange. Occiput: orange “spectacles.” Thorax: orange w/ middorsal/thin shoulder stripes black. Abdomen: black/yellow rings separate segs; S1 and most of S2 orange.

**Habitat:** Widespread on ponds and slow-moving streams w/ abundant emergent vegetation. Adults perch in the shelter of shoreline vegetation or on floating plants. Open sunny areas.

**Reproduction:** Female oviposits alone (usually) into submerged or standing plant stems. Larvae needs >48 days to develop.

**Notes:** Old name: Common Forktail. One of the first damselflies in the spring. Has long flight period.

**Similar species:** *I. ramburii* (Rambur’s F.) may be found in the same locations.


**Phenograms** (pages 2 – 6).
**Locations** (in Howard County)

**Identification features and odonate anatomy**