**Libellula incesta**  
Hagen  

**Slaty Skimmer**

23 May - 29 Sep

**Common**

42-58 mm (1.7-2.3 in.)

**Medium**


**FEMALE:** Eyes: red-brown. Abdomen brown or lightly pruinose; S8 laterally expanded, usually brownish. Wings: some lack black basal streaks (only a tiny spot may be present mid-wing); some have smoky color on tips.

**JUVENILE:** Similar to *L. vibrans* (Great Blue S.) Face: yellowish or brownish. Thorax: a brown triangular marking on the side basal of FW; lateral pale pattern resembles a cartoon wolf. Body: some yellow w/ lateral pale stripe.

**Habitat:** Sunny sections of permanent ponds. Perches on tops of weeds or twigs. Male most active over water in morning. May approach/investigate humans. Forages along forest edges.

**Reproduction:** Male perches at top of vegetation and guards territory along shoreline. Mate low on shoreline or on emergent vegetation; mating takes 1/2 - 1 minutes; includes brief perching. Female oviposits alone by flipping water drops while male guards w/ fast flights above. (Female w/ yellow juvenile coloration can oviposit.)

**Notes:** Old name: Damson Skimmer. Name “Damson” comes from color of ripe plums.

**Similar Species:** Female *L. incesta*, *L. axilena* (Bar-winged S.), *L. vibrans* (Great Blue S.). Mature male *L. axilena* has bar on FW leading edge and becomes whitish at base of HW.


**Phenograms** (pages 2 – 6).

**Locations** (in Howard County)

**Identification features and odonate anatomy**