**Lestes australis** Walker  
**Southern Spreadwing**  
12 Apr - 31 Oct

**Common MALE**: 36-46 mm (1.4-1.8 in.) **FEMALE**: 38.5-44 (1.5-1.7)

**Medium MALE**:  

**FEMALE**:  
- Nose: turquoise. Thorax: reddish sheen on stripes, lower sides pale to yellow. Abdomen: brown; no pruinosity; S7-9 pale yellow laterally. Stigmas: cross veins at each end are yellow (less noticeable in male).

**JUVENILE**: Bronze, pale areas dull yellowish.

**Habitat**: Sand-bottomed lakes; temporary/semi-permanent ponds. Permanent waters w/ abundant emergent vegetation; marshy/boggy ponds, swamps, slow streams. Most active around 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Adults perch on emergent vegetation in wetlands or nearby grassy fields, making short slow flights.

**Reproduction**: Not territorial. Mate for 10-30 minutes. Female oviposit in tandem on emergent vertical green stems above waterline (sometimes both submerge). Delayed egg development (diapause).

**Similar species**: *Lestes forcipatus* (Sweetflag S.) female has longer ovipositor; male is even more confusing; safest ID by association w/ female.


**Phenograms** (pages 2 – 6).

**Locations** (in Howard County)

**Identification features and odonate anatomy**