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.

**Locations:**  

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

Identification features and odonate anatomy