**Epiaeschna heros**  (Fabricius)  

**Swamp Darner**  

Common  

82-91 mm (3.2-3.6 in.)  

Mega  

11 May - 29 Nov  

**MALE:**  Eyes: blue. Thorax: dark brown w/ 2 green stripes. Abdomen: dark brown/blackish w/ narrow green rings; S8-9 nearly all black.  


**FEMALE:**  Appendages: elongate—oval/leaf-like.  

**JUVENILE:**  Wings: tinted yellow in middle 3/5, clear basal/tip.  

**Habitat:**  Widespread over rivers and open areas; shady ponds and forested swamps; slow streams. Feeds from 3’ above ground to treetops; perches by hanging vertically from high tree branches. Migratory. Forages late afternoon, early evening/dusk.  

**Reproduction:**  Male does not hold territory or patrol over water. Female oviposits alone in wet wood, logs, mud, stems up to 6’ above water in fishless marshes/swamps. Exuviae in swampy environments on vegetation not far above water.  

**Notes:**  Migrates. Old name: Hero Darner.  

**Similar Species:**  *Nasiaeschna pentacantha*  (Cyrano D.) is smaller w/ irregularly-shaped stripes on the sides of the thorax/green marking (not rings) on the abdomen.  


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**Phenograms** (pages 2 – 6).  

**Locations** (in Howard County)  

**Identification features and odonate anatomy**