Macromia illinoiensis Walsh

Common

MALE: Eyes: green; Thorax: coat of fine hairs; dark brown w/single yellow or cream stripe bordered by black. Abdomen: dark brown, slightly metallic, clubbed; S2 middorsal and lateral yellow spots, S3-4 middorsal small paired spots, S7 middorsal spot (visible in flight), S8 small narrow spot. Appendages: black.

FEMALE: Abdomen: stouter, spots larger.

JUVENILE: Wings: sometimes yellowish brown.

Habitat: Rivers and streams; rocky, gravel-bottomed creeks and rivers. More active in morning. Forages along forest edges and dirt roads at 3-6’. Late afternoon feeding swarms. M.i. georgina (Georgia River Cruiser): from eastern MD to Piedmont/Coastal Plain interface. M. i. illinoiensis (Illinois River Cruiser): from western MD to Piedmont/Coastal Plain interface. Both and intergrades occur in Howard County.

Reproduction: Male patrols long regular beat, low along water’s edge. Mate hanging high in trees. Female oviposits alone into middle of stream/river or at head of rapids or in pool areas; flies low and fast. Exuviae on boulders and rocks, tree trunks 3-6’ from edge of water; may travel 20’ distance and 14’ height to emerge.


Phenograms (pages 2 – 6).
Locations (in Howard County)
Identification features and odonate anatomy