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ARCHILESTES GRANDIS IN WISCONSIN (ODONATA: LESTIDAE)

Susan Sullivan Borkin¹

Archilestes grandis (Rambur) is the largest damselfly that occurs in America north of Mexico. Its distribution in the United States was reported by Muttkowski (1910) as Lower Sonoran, Washington to Baja California, and Texas. It was collected east of the Mississippi River for the first time in 1927 by E. B. Williamson (1931) in Ohio, and since that time has extended its range along the southern and mid-Atlantic states (Harwood 1973, Kennedy 1977, Tennessen 1979), and north of Texas to South Dakota (Gloyd 1980). With this history of recent expansion, it comes as no surprise to find A. grandis in Wisconsin.

I collected one pair of A. grandis in copula on 8 September 1978 in Milwaukee County, from vegetation along Honey Creek near its junction with the Menomonee River. No individuals were discovered at the site on 5 August 1982, but on 20 September 1984 after a two-hour search, one male was collected from a perch in Honey Creek and one female was taken from a tree trunk nearby. No individuals were found along the Menomonee River. The water was slow-moving and shallow in both the river and Honey Creek. Willow branches overhanging the water were examined for oviposition punctures but none were discovered. If A. grandis is able to overwinter here, presumably it hibernates in the egg stage (Ingram 1976).

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