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Robert B. DuBois
Department of Natural Resources

Craig R. Stettner
Harper College

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**GOMPHUS SPICATUS (ODONATA: GOMPHIDAE)
REDISCOVERED IN ILLINOIS AND LIBELLULA SEMIFASCIATA
(ODONATA: LIBELLULIDAE) RECORDED NEAR WISCONSIN**

Robert B. DuBois¹ and Craig R. Stettner²

Gomphus spicatus Hagen (Odonata: Gomphidae), commonly called dusky clubtail, is a common and widely distributed dragonfly in a variety of ponds, lakes, and slow streams throughout its range in the north-eastern and north-central United States and adjacent areas of southern Canada (Donnelly 2004). It is known in Illinois only from a few adult records from Cedar, Fox and Sand lakes in Lake County during June 1892 (Needham and Hart 1901). Needham and Hart (1901) also mentioned that many nymphs thought to be this species were taken from Sand and Clear lakes, but no dates were given and it is not known where these nymphs were deposited. Since then, no specimens of *G. spicatus* are known to have been taken in Illinois (T. Cashatt, Illinois State Museum, pers. comm.). We checked the Odonata housed at the Field Museum in Chicago, including both the adult collection (J. Boone, pers. comm.) and larval collection (D. Summers, pers. comm.) without locating any specimens of *G. spicatus* from Illinois. Further, personnel with the Illinois Natural History Survey were not aware of any recent Illinois specimens (E. DeWalt, pers. comm.).

We collected one adult male of *G. spicatus* and observed several other males during the mid-afternoon of 10 June 2007 near the Dead River in Illinois Beach State Park (South Unit), Lake County, Illinois. The specimen is deposited in the Odonata Collection of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), which is housed at the WDNR Superior Service Center. The males of *G. spicatus* were perched on a gravel access road where it intersected a hiking trail immediately adjacent to the river, less than 1 km from its mouth at Lake Michigan. The Dead River at the site is a slowly flowing stream that is blocked by a sand bar much of the year, forming an elongated pond. On 22 June 2007, one of us (CRS) returned to the South Unit and observed several *G. spicatus* at each of two interdunal wetlands (pannes) on the calcareous moist sands of the lake plain, about 800 m north of the mouth of the Dead River (about 600 m from the original *G. spicatus* site). Our findings suggest that these sites, which are located less than 30 km from the three lakes where *G. spicatus* was found over 100 years ago, likely provided breeding habitat for *G. spicatus* in 2007. Further surveys of Odonata at the Dead River and the nearby pannes are recommended to determine if populations of *G. spicatus* are persisting in those areas, and surveys of the odonate faunas of Clear, Fox, and Sand lakes would be helpful as well.

A single adult female *Libellula semifasciata* Burmeister (Odonata: Libellulidae), commonly called painted skimmer, was also collected on the hiking trail along the Dead River on 10 June 2007 and is deposited in the WDNR Odonata Collection. A number of adult *L. semifasciata* had been observed by CRS along the same hiking trail on several previous occasions and several individuals were again present along that trail on 22 June 2007. The finding of *L. semifasciata* evidently breeding at the Dead River site, which is within 8 km of the Wisconsin state line, is noteworthy because that species has not been found in Wisconsin since Muttkowski (1908) reported it from Milwaukee County in 1903 (Smith et al. 2003; Wisconsin Odonata Survey 2008). Populations of *L. semifasciata* may persist, and should be looked for, in the southern tier of counties of Wisconsin, especially in Kenosha County near Lake Michigan.

¹Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Ecological Inventory and Monitoring Section, 1401 Tower Avenue, Superior, Wisconsin 54880. Phone: 715-392-6976. (e-mail: Robert.Dubois@wisconsin.gov).

²Biology Department, Harper College, 1200 West Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois 60067.

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