

Eswatini's Odonata
Damselflies and Dragonflies



Checklist sources:

- SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist. Compiled by Tanza Crouch and Tessa Hedge (2000). Department of Entomology & Arachnology, Durban Natural Science Museum, P O Box 4085, Durban, 4000 South Africa. (<https://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/resources/martin/odonata.html>)
- Presence confirmed by photos from the UCT-ADU Virtual Museum OdonataMAP. <http://vmus.adu.org.za/>, Tina Petterson, Project Noah.
- SANBI's list of Odonata (SA list)
- UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018
- Possible occurrence based on distribution maps in Dragonflies and Damselflies of South Africa. 2008. Michael J. Samways.

Details and descriptions from Dragonflies and Damselflies of South Africa. 2008. Michael J. Samways. Names as per African Dragonflies & Damselflies Online, November 2018. (<http://addo.adu.org.za/index.php>)

Photos to illustrate the checklist provided by Alan Manson, Bart Wursten, Bernardine Alice Altenroxel, Bertie Brink, Christopher K Willis, Desire Darling, Ernst Klimsa, Felicity Grundlingh, Gerhard Diedericks, J H Wilkinson, Jacobus Labuschagne, Peter Webb, R M Tippett and Kate Braun, Virtual Museum - Odonata of southern Africa. (<http://vmus.adu.org.za/>)

Phylogeny from Bybee S, Córdoba-Aguilar A, Duryea MC, et al. 2016. Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) as a bridge between ecology and evolutionary genomics. *Front Zool.* 2016;13:46

This checklist includes a total of 76 confirmed and 30 possible species. Compiled by Kate Braun, updated December 2018.

Zygoptera (Damselflies)

Lestidae
Synlestidae
Calopterygidae
Chlorocyphidae
Platycnemididae
Protoneuridae
Coenagrionidae

Anisoptera (Dragonflies)

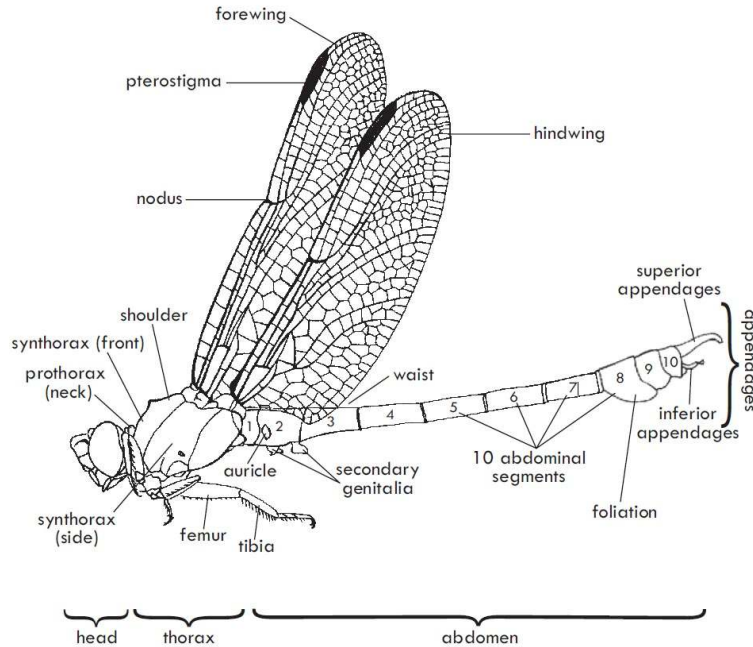
Aeshnidae
Gomphidae
Corduliidae
Libellulidae



Eswatini National Trust Commission
www.sntc.org.sz

Dragonfly Structure

(from Dragonflies and Damselflies of South Africa. 2008. Michael J. Samways.)



Online Resources

African Dragonflies & Damselflies Online (ADDO):

addo.adu.org.za

Dragonflies and Damselflies of southern Africa (Guides, identification)

www.dragonflies.co.za

UCT-ADU Virtual Museum OdonataMAP

vmus.adu.org.za

iNaturalist

www.inaturalist.org

WarwickTarburton

www.warwicktarboton.co.za/Dragonfly%20list.html

Zygoptera: Lestidae

Lestes dissimulans Fraser, 1955

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Medium-sized, greenish grey speckled and lightly striped. Localised at bush-fringed pools in hot savanna.

Distribution: Limpopo Province and northern KwaZulu Natal. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 39-40 mm, **Hindwing length:** 21.5-22.5 mm

Habitat: Pools and swamps in hot savanna.]

Behaviour: Hangs, with wings outstretched, from grass stems and rushes overwater.

Flight period: Dec-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.



Photos: J H
Wilkinson,
Bernadine Alice
Altenroxel

Spreadwings Cryptic Spreadwing



Lestes ictericus Gerstäcker, 1869

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Medium-sized, tawny brown, with few markings. Sluggish, low-elevation streams and pools, in north of KwaZulu Natal.

Distribution: Very localised in South Africa, only North of Kwazulu Natal. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 40-41 mm, **Hindwing length:** 22-23.5 mm

Habitat: Grassy and reedy pools or sluggish parts of streams in dry, hot savanna.

Behaviour: Rests on tall grass and reed stems, mostly overwater.

Flight period: Jan-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: Bertie Brink



Lestes pallidus Rambur, 1842

SA list

Features: Medium-sized, very variable in patterning and colour, inconspicuous greyish, striped with light blue eyes. Shallow pools in warmer parts of South Africa.

Distribution: FSP, Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal (especially north coastal), Mpumalanga lowveld, North West Province, Limpopo and one Eastern Cape Province record. Common in iSimangaliso Wetland Park and South of Kruger National Park. To Sudan and West Africa.

Body length: 40-42 mm, **Hindwing length:** 22-23.5 mm

Habitat: Semi-permanent, shallow pools and pans, with short, emergent sedges and grasses, mostly in hot areas.

Behaviour: Hangs over and close to water surface, very still for long periods. Mating pairs common.

Flight period: November to April

Pallid Spreadwing

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Christopher K Willis

Lestes plagiatus (Burmeister, 1839)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Maphalaleni Road, Piggs Peak, Pine Valley

Features: Medium to fairly large, and highly variable in colour, although distinctly striped. Widespread at upland or montane pools, dams and sluggish reaches of rivers where there are margins of tall grass.

Distribution: At Umtamvuna almost to sea level. Elsewhere, mostly 700-1400 m a.s.l. throughout all South Africa, but rare in Western Cape Province. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 44-47 mm, **Hindwing length:** 44-47 mm

Habitat: Grassy and bushy borders of dams, pools and sluggish reaches of rivers away from the coast.

Behaviour: Hangs from tall grass stems, sometimes in large numbers. Mating pairs common.



Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Highland Spreadingwing

Lestes tridens McLachlan, 1895

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Small to medium, greyish green to greyish blue, with wavy 'oak leaf' dorsal band and dark spots and speckles. Pools and dams with grassy margins in warmer parts of South Africa.

Distribution: Localised, mostly below 200 m a.s.l. on northern KwaZulu Natal coast. Also Mpumalanga lowveld, and Limpopo. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 35-38 mm, **Hindwing length:** 19-19.5 mm

Habitat: Grassy and bushy margins of pools, dams and waterholes in hot areas.

Behaviour: Hangs inactively from grass stems or twigs over water. Female often with male.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: Gerhard Diedericks



Lestes uncifer Karsch, 1899

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Medium to fairly large. Greenish turquoise with irregular blackish mottling, and large, whitish, curved appendages. Pools next to thick bush in hot areas.

Distribution: Localised north of KwaZulu Natal and Kruger National Park. To North and West Africa.

Body length: 44-46 mm, **Hindwing length:** 24-24.5 mm

Habitat: Margins of pools with tall grass and tall sedges next to thick bush or forest. Sometimes even murky waterholes.

Behaviour: Hangs from tall stems over the water, but readily retreats into bushes when disturbed.

Flight period: Jan-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: R M Tippett



Lestes virgatus (Burmeister, 1839)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Pine Valley

Features: Fairly large, slender, dull metallic green, striped, and with strongly smoky wings. Localised at forest pools in moist areas of South Africa.

Distribution: Localised in all moist, forested areas of South Africa (but very rare in Western Cape Province) to about 1600 m a.s.l. To North and West Africa.

Body length: 45-49 mm, **Hindwing length:** 26.5-27.5 mm

Habitat: Pools with tall grass, herbs and bushes, usually near trees or in forest. Occasionally shady streams.

Behaviour: Mostly among tall grass and herbs at pool edge, and occasionally away from water in forest. Populations appear and disappear often, as conditions change.

Flight period: November to May



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Kate Braun, Christopher K Willis*

Smoky Spreadwing

Zygoptera: Synlestidae

Chlorolestes fasciatus Burmeister, 1839

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Pine Valley

Features: Fairly large to large, metallic green with pale yellow markings and usually with strongly black and white banded wings. Young individuals are bright metallic green, which darkens with age to shiny copper in very old individuals. Common in all montane areas of South Africa, except Wof Western Cape Province.

Distribution: Common between 1200-1800 m a.s.l. (but almost to sea level at Umtamvuna, and up to 2400 m a.s.l. in Southern Drakensberg). Western Cape Province (rare), Eastern Cape Province, FSP, KwaZulu Natal, Lesotho, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

Body length: 51-54 mm, **Hindwing length:** 29-30 mm

Habitat: Streams and small rivers with pools and abundance of tall grass, reeds and small bushes over the water. In the north, occasionally in forested areas.



Malachites Mountain Malachite



Behaviour: Mostly at rest, wings outstretched on vegetation over water. Banded winged males vigo rously territorial, actively chasing unbanded males away. Banded males space themselves along water's edge.

Flight period: December to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun, Christopher K Willis

Chlorolestes tessellatus Burmeister, 1839

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Fairly large, slender, dull metallic green, with indistinct straw-coloured thoracic markings, and in Eastern Cape Province and occasionally KwaZulu Natal, with black and white, banded wings. Clear, bushy or forested streams at moderate elevations through most of South Africa lowmontane areas.

Distribution: Western Cape Province (rare), Eastern Cape Province, KwaZulu Natal Midlands, Mpumalanga highveld and Limpopo (Soutpansberg).

Body length: 54 mm, **Hindwing length:** 30.5-31.5 mm

Habitat: Small, clear streams with pools in forests (mostly 400-1200 m a.s.l., although occasionally sea level).

Behaviour: Highly camouflaged when it is clear-winged, but very conspicuous in its banded form, and highly territorial. Hangs from twigs or stems under bushes or trees, becoming more conspicuous when it moves into a sunfleck.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Possible occurrence based on Distribution maps in Dragonflies and Damselflies of South Africa. 2008. Michael J. Samways, and on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: *Christopher K Willis*



Zygoptera: Calopterygidae

Phaon iridipennis (Burmeister, 1839)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Mantenga, Pine Valley

Features: Very large, metallic greenish brown with large, rounded glistening wings which have dense and delicate net-like venation and small or absent pterostigmas. Wooded streams East of Drakensberg escarpment.

Distribution: Eastern Cape Province, then North along the coastal plain, up to 800 m a.s.l. To Central Africa and Madagascar.

Body length: 69-70 mm, **Hindwing length:** 37-38 mm

Habitat: Among bushes and trees, especially with a tangle of dead twigs at or near swift streams or rivers. Occasionally in deep forest up to 1 km from water.

Behaviour: Rarely seen in flight, unless disturbed, when its iridescent wings are striking. Normally rests horizontally along dead twig.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and R B Tate, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Demoiselles Glistening Demoiselle



Photos: Christopher K Willis, Kate Braun



Zygoptera: Chlorocyphidae***Platycypha caligata*** (Selys, 1853)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

*Piggs Peak, Mlawula, Phophonyane, Mbabane, Mlilwane, Mantenga, Maphalaleni Road, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Pine Valley***Features:** Small, stocky, colourful thorax, orange, red and black, abdomen brilliant blue, legs leaf-like and bright red and white. Swift, rocky, bush-lined streams and rivers East of Drakensberg.**Distribution:** Common along eastern seaboard and lowveld, with records from Eastern Cape Province and interior, 100-800 m a.s.l. Occasionally to 1500 m a.s.l. To Angola and Ethiopia.**Body length:** 31-33 mm, **Hindwing length:** 21.5-22 mm**Habitat:** Bush-lined or tree-lined, shallow, rocky, permanent streams and rivers. Sometimes river pools and also open streams with tall grass margins.**Behaviour:** Mostly resting on boulders, twigs or leaf blades in/over the water. Flight short and bee-like. Has an elaborate court ship dance where the male hovers in front of the resting female, with legs dangling and waving, with the white very conspicuous.**Flight period:** December to May**Comments:** Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks, Pam Sai, M Maciver, Luke Kemp and Ernst Klimsa, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).**Photos:** Kate Braun

Stream-damsels Goldtail

Zygoptera: Platycnemididae

Allocnemis leucosticta Selys, 1863

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mantenga, Malolotja

Features: Striking, slender, mostly black, with black and pale blue thorax, smoky wings, white pterostigmas and abdomen with golden tip.

Distribution: Endemic to South Africa, and in montane areas, rarely coastal forest, from Western Cape Province to Soutpansberg, but not yet recorded in the lowveld. Up to 2000m.a.s.l.

Body length: 39-43 mm, **Hindwing length:** 22.5-24 mm

Habitat: Clear, shallow, forest streams, or open streams with bushes and occasionally trees. These streams may only be a trickle.

Behaviour: This strikingly coloured damselfly flits in sunflecks among



branches overhanging streams, landing and perching in a conspicuous position. Its white pterostigmas are clearly visible in flight.

Flight period: September to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks, and SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun, Christopher K Willis

Mesocnemis singularis Karsch, 1891

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula

Features: Fairly robust, heavily pruinescent pale blue, almost whitish, with short, brownish black pterostigmas. Perches mostly on reeds or grasses over swift reaches of savanna rivers.

Distribution: Localised in hot areas with wide, fast, shallow, rocky streams. Northern Cape Province, North West Province, Limpopo, northern KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga lowveld. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 41-42 mm, **Hindwing length:** 26.5-27.5 mm

Habitat: Fast-moving, shallow streams or rivers in savanna or semiarid areas. May be confined to pools when water level drops.

Behaviour: Perches on reeds, sedges or grasses over flowing water, or on rocks in a glide. Female usually in association with male.

Flight period: December to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun.

Photo: Kate Braun

Common (Forest/Savanna) Riverjack

Threadtails

Common Threadtail

Zygoptera: Protoneuridae

Elatoneura glauca (Selys, 1860)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Malolotja, Pine Valley, Mlawula, Maguga, Piggs Peak

Features: Small, slender, pale bluish grey and black. Sluggish reaches of rivers throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Abundant and widespread, but less common near the coast and in lowveld. Up to 1700 m a.s.l. To Kenya and D R Congo.

Body length: 34-35 mm, **Hindwing length:** 18-18.5 mm

Habitat: Tall grass beside sluggish reaches of rivers, and occasionally pools, marshes and dams.

Behaviour: Reluctant to fly, mostly perching on grass stems. Flight slow and hovering for just a few centimetres.

Flight period: October to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and G Diedericks.



Photos: Kate Braun



Zygoptera: Coenagrionidae***Aciagrion gracile*** (Sjöstedt, 1909)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Distribution: Tropical Africa, Mozambique, and Limpopo and northern KwaZulu Natal in South Africa.

Comments: Probable occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018.

Photos: Bernadine Alice Altenroxel, J H Wilkinson

**Sprites**
Graceful Slim

Africallagma fractum (Martin, 1907)

SA list

Features: Small, very slender, striped, bright sky to cobalt blue and black, with large postocular spots and bright blue abdominal tip. Localised among tall grass in streams and pools at middle elevations in KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo.

Distribution: Very localised and not always present in same locality from one year to next. KwaZulu Natal (600-1200 m a.s.l.) and Limpopo. To Ethiopia.

Body length: 30 mm, **Hindwing length:** 16.5-17 mm

Habitat: Tall grass and herbs in small streams and pools in bush of forest openings.

Behaviour: Conspicuous as it sits high on tall grass stems, gently waving its abdomen up and down and often engaging in territorial disputes.

Flight period: December to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Christopher K Willis*



Africallagma glaucum (Burmeister, 1839)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP historical and other records

Mlilwane

Features: Very small to small, all sky blue and black, with no black marking on abdominal S8, which is all blue. Very common in marshy areas throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Common throughout South Africa from sea level to alpine zone of Drakensberg. To tropical Africa, and La Réunion.

Body length: 28-29 mm, **Hindwing length:** 15.5-16.5 mm

Habitat: Pools, dams and still parts of streams and rivers where conditions are swampy and with an abundance of short grasses and sedges.

Behaviour: Glides swiftly across the water, close to the surface, frequently landing on an emergent grass blade, small stick or lily.

Flight period: Flies all year, but scarce in winter.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Ernst Klimsa, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP historical and other records, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photo: *Christopher K Willis*



Africallagma sapphirinum (Pinhey, 1950)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Very small, sapphire blue and black with sawtooth blackpatterning along abdomen. Pools and dams over 1000 m.a.s.l. in central South Africa.

Distribution: Central South Africa at elevations of 1000-1800 m a.s.l.

Body length: 26-28 mm, **Hindwing length:** 13.5-15 mm

Habitat: Pools and trout dams with fringing tall grasses and sedges.

Behaviour: Perches mostly on grass or sedge stems at water's edge, but will fly rapidly across and close to water surface when disturbed.

Flight period: Dec-Apr

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: Alan Manson



Agriocnemis exilis Selys, 1872

SA list

Features: Minute to very small, mostly shiny black with green face, fine green thoracic stripe and bright orange abdominal tip. Flooded pools thick with grasses and reeds in hot areas.

Distribution: Localised, Eastern Cape Province, KwaZulu Natal coastal plain, Limpopo, Eswatini. To Ethiopia and West Africa, also Madagascar and Mauritius.

Body length: 18-22 mm, **Hindwing length:** 8.5-10 mm

Habitat: Flooded margins of open pools, dams and pans with an abundance of fairly short, reddish grass, sedges and reeds.

Behaviour: Rests, head upwards, on grass stems close to water. Cruises down low among the thick vegetation.

Flight period: December to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photo: *Felicity Grundlingh*



Agriocnemis falcifera Pinhey, 1959

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Very small, black-headed with pruinescent white 'moustache', elongated or linked postocular spots, shiny black thorax with yellow or pruinescent white stripe, differently-coloured pterostigmas in forewing and hindwing. Grassy fringes of pools and dams in montane areas.

Distribution: Southern African endemic

Body length: 24-25 mm, **Hindwing length:** 11-12 mm

Habitat: Reed- and grass-packed, swampy margins of pools and dams, and occasionally still reaches of rivers.

Behaviour: Perches on grass or reed stems. Various colour forms of both male and female may be together in same habitat.

Flight period: Nov-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: J H Wilkinson, Alan Manson, Desire Darling



Azuragrion nigradorsum (Selys, 1876)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Enrich Dam, Nisela, Mlawula

Features: Very small, bright blue and black with black patch on S8. Coastal pools in KwaZulu Natal and marshy margins of Cape rivers.

Distribution: Southern Cape coast, Eastern Cape Province and coastal, central and northern KwaZulu Natal to about 1200 m a.s.l. Other local South Africa records. To Ethiopia.

Body length: 25-26 mm, **Hindwing length:** 15-16 mm

Habitat: Pools, vleis, and small lakes, usually fringed with bushes or trees, and with an abundance of grasses, sedges and lilies. Sometimes grassy margins of slow reaches of rivers.

Behaviour: Flies rapidly across water surface, frequently landing on single, emergent grass stems, or lily pads, often away from bank.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diederikcs and Kate Braun.

Photo: *Kate Braun*



Ceriagrion glabrum (Burmeister, 1839)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Mlilwane, Mlawula

Features: Medium-sized, all orange, with two, minute projections on S10. Pools, marshes, dams, sluggish reaches of streams in the open or in forest, at lower elevations throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Widespread in South Africa. Mostly low elevations, occasionally to 1000 m a.s.l. and warmer areas of highveld, but not the driest areas. To East and West Africa, also Madagascar, Seychelles and Mascarenes.

Body length: 39-41 mm, **Hindwing length:** 20-20.5 mm

Habitat: Pools, marshes and sluggish reaches of rivers with an abundance of tall grass, sedges and reeds. Sometimes an open Habitat, with trees nearby, or even in thick forest.

Behaviour: Rests and hovers among tall grass and other vegetation, sometimes many tens of metres from the water's edge. Female often with male, and mating pairs common.

Flight period: October to May



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed photos by Kate Braun, Pam Sai and Ernst Klimsa, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Christopher K Willis*

Ischnura senegalensis (Rambur, 1842)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Nisela, Mlawula

Features: Small, hairy, brightly coloured, blue, greenish blue and shiny black, with blue and black pterostigmas and bright cobalt blue abdominal tip. Very common in pools and marshes.

Distribution: Very common throughout South Africa, up to 2000 m a.s.l. Throughout tropical Africa, Asia and Indian Ocean islands.

Body length: 29-30 mm, **Hindwing length:** 14.5-15.5 mm

Habitat: Edges of pools, pans, dams, waterholes and marshy sectors of rivers. Can inhabit very stagnant Habitats, and even slightly brackish conditions. Highly tolerant of disturbed conditions and may be present in very trampled waterholes.

**Tropical Bluetail**

Behaviour: Conspicuous as it flits and rests among reeds, sedges and grass in marshy areas. Mating pairs common.

Flight period: September to May, with occasional overwintering individuals.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks.

Photos: Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks

Pseudagrion acaciae Förster, 1906

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Big Bend, Mlawula, Sidvokodvo

Features: Medium-sized, rusty-headed with light green back of head, and orangy red thorax with green, black-ringed abdomen and blue tip. Swift, hot-savanna streams and rivers.

Distribution: Localised, below 300 m a.s.l. in the east. Northern Cape Province, northern KwaZulu Natal, becoming more abundant in Mpumalanga (Kruger National Park). To Tanzania.

Body length: 38-39 mm, **Hindwing length:** 18.5-19 mm

Habitat: Swift, hot-savanna lowveld streams and rivers with grass fringes. Perches on emergent sticks and vegetation in main current.

Behaviour: Glides rapidly over and close to water surface when disturbed, regularly returning to favoured perch.

Flight period: November to May



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Pam Sai, Tina Petterson and Gerhard Diedericks, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Pseudagrion caffrum (Burmeister, 1839)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Malolotja

Features: Small, dark blackish blue body, bright rusty red pterostigmas, no postocular spots and yellow face. Grassy, montane streams along all of the Drakensberg.

Distribution: Mostly 1400-2200 m a.s.l., and endemic to the Amatola-Winterberg, Eastern Cape Province, KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga Drakensberg.

Body length: 33-34 mm, **Hindwing length:** 20.5 mm

Habitat: Small and shallow, rocky feeder streams with riffles, occasionally rivers, and with dense grass and sedge-covered banks in mountains.

Behaviour: Cryptic species that rests among grass and sedge stems close to and over water. Reluctant to fly. Female often with male.

Flight period: October to May

Springwater Sprite

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks.

Photos: Kate Braun

Pseudagrion coeleste Longfield, 1947

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Features: Small to medium-sized, pale blue to greenish blue and black, with cat's head marking on abdominal S2. Highly localised at pools, marshes and still reaches of rivers.

Distribution: There are two forms: the northern form in the Kruger National Park (*P. c. coeleste*) and Limpopo, and the southern form in KwaZulu Natal (*P. c. umsingaziense*). To Angola and Zambia.

Body length: 35-37 mm, **Hindwing length:** 20.5 mm

Habitat: Pools, swamps, marshes and dammed reaches of rivers with an abundance of grass, reeds and sedges.

Behaviour: Rests and flits among emergent, rank vegetation. Often rests on lily pads.

Flight period: Dec-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: Alan Manson



Pseudagrion commoniae (Förster, 1902)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula, Manzimnyama

Features: Small to medium-sized, black with no postocular spots, a dull maroon face and with grey-tipped abdomen. Sluggish savanna streams and rivers.

Distribution: KwaZulu Natal (up to 700 m a.s.l.), Mpumalanga and Limpopo. To Ethiopia.

Body length: 33-38 mm, **Hindwing length:** 18.5-23 mm

Habitat: Pools, water holes but mainly sluggish reaches of streams and rivers, even those that are highly turbid.

Behaviour: Rests, and flies reluctantly, among rushes and sedges at water's edge. Also perches close to water on emergent twigs.

Flight period: December to May



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Len de Beer, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Pseudagrion gamblesi Pinhey, 1978

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Sidvokodvo

Features: Fairly large, greenish blue and black striped, with yellowish orange and black head and large light blue postocular spots, and blue or pruinulent whitish abdominal tip. Localised at reed-fringed, swift, rocky rivers in middle-elevation grassy savanna.

Distribution: Localised, northern KwaZulu Natal to South of Mpumalanga (700-1400 m a.s.l.). To Angola and D R Congo.

Body length: 45-46 mm, **Hindwing length:** 27.5-28 mm

Habitat: Fast, rocky-bottomed rivers with quieter, reed-fringed pools in upland, grassy savanna.

Behaviour: Inactive, mostly resting on a reed stem overhanging water.

Flight period: October to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diedericks.

Photo: Christopher K Willis



Pseudagrion hageni Karsch, 1893

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Maguga

Features: Small to medium-sized, slender, orangy red face. The northern form (*P. h. tropicanum*) has a light green and black striped thorax. Black abdomen with violet tip. Among tall grass at shaded pools and still reaches of streams and rivers at low elevations.

Distribution: Common throughout the warmer areas north of Port St Johns where there is clear water and deep shade, but most common at lower elevations on coast. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 36-43 mm, **Hindwing length:** 21.5-23.5 mm

Habitat: Under tree cover, even in very dark locations. Sluggish parts of streams and rivers, seeps, bogs and lakes, with non-turbid water, some tall grass stems and shade.

Behaviour: Often conspicuous by its delicate, bright and contrasting colours as it flits and hovers in sunflecks over dark water.



Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diedericks, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Christopher K Willis*

Pseudagrion hamoni Fraser, 1955

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula, Rosecraft Farm, Matsapha

Features: Small to medium-sized, mostly maroon to blackish, contrasting colours, with thorax above very dark and light below, light patches between wings and multi-coloured abdomen. Perches conspicuously over slow-moving rivers in hot savanna.

Distribution: North of KwaZulu Natal Eswatini, Mpumalanga lowveld, Limpopo (1600 m a.s.l.). To East and West Africa.

Body length: 36-38 mm, **Hindwing length:** 19.5-20 mm

Habitat: Usually sluggish reaches of hot savanna streams and rivers, even with very turbid water, but occasionally pools and dams.

Behaviour: Perches on tall grass over water or on emerging stems and lilies in water.

Flight period: November to May



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Phillip Nieuwoudt, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Pseudagrion inopinatum Balinsky, 1971

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Small, all dark blue, with triangular, blue postocular spots. Very scarce. Grass-lined streams of middle-elevation KZNP and MP

Distribution: Very localised endemic, only recorded from Badplaas, Mpumalanga, and a possible old record from Little Berg in KwaZulu Natal.

Body length: 38 mm, **Hindwing length:** 21.5-22.5 mm

Habitat: Mid-elevation (about 1000 m a.s.l.) streams and rivers with profusion of marginal grass and reeds.

Behaviour: Rests on reed or grass over runningwater.

Flight period: Oct-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: R M Tippett, Alan Manson



Pseudagrion kersteni (Gerstäcker, 1869)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mantenga, Sidvokodvo, Malolotja, Maphalaleni Road, Maphalaleni Valley, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Mlawula, Mlilwane, Piggs Peak, Pine Valley, Rosecraft Farm, Big Bend

Features: Medium-sized, pruinulent powdery blue and black striped, with bold, blue postocular spots and black labrum. Tall grass-fringed streams and rivers throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Very common throughout much of South Africa 50-1600 m a.s.l., but rarely on coast. Throughout tropical Africa.

Body length: 38-41 mm, **Hindwing length:** 20-21 mm

Habitat: Grass-, herb- and reedfringed, shallow, fairly fast streams and rivers.

Behaviour: Sits conspicuously on a reed or grass stem beside running water. Female mostly away from water in tall grass. All year, but scarce in winter.

Flight period: All year, but scarce in winter.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks and Ernst Klimsa, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Christopher K Willis, Kate Braun*

**Powder-faced Sprite**

Pseudagrion massaicum Sjöstedt, 1909

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Nkomati River, Nisela, Mlawula

Features: Small, red-headed, vermilion red thorax, with bright blue pruinescent area between wing bases and cobalt blue abdominal tip. Stillwater throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Common throughout much of South Africa, but rarely above 1300 m a.s.l., except in Limpopo. To North Africa.

Body length: 31-35 mm, **Hindwing length:** 16.5-20.5 mm

Habitat: Well-vegetated ponds, pools and sluggish reaches of rivers, with lilies, reeds and sedges, and an abundance of submerged water weed and floating algal mats.

Behaviour: Perches horizontally close to the water on lilies, grass stems and small twigs, and on floating algal mats, usually away from the margin.

Flight period: October to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks.

Photos: *Kate Braun, Christopher K Willis*



Pseudagrion salisburyense Ris, 1921

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Piggs Peak, Mlilwane, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Maphalaleni Valley, Mbuluzi causeway

Features: Small to medium-sized, all dark, slate blue, with greenish blue labrum, and two, round bright blue postocular spots and abdomen with bluish tip that later turns whitish. Reedfringed sluggish streams and rivers, and occasionally pools. Very common across much of South Africa.

Distribution: Very common throughout much of South Africa 200-1600 m a.s.l., although scarce in Western Cape Province. To Kenya.

Body length: 35-38 mm, **Hindwing length:** 20.5-21 mm

Habitat: Mostly sluggish or still reaches of streams and rivers with an abundance of reeds, grasses and herbs. Common at reservoirs. Occasionally faster water, and also pools and water holes.

Behaviour: Inactive, resting mostly along reed blades overhanging water. Mating pairs common.



Flight period: Can fly all year, but scarce Jul-Aug.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks and Ernst Klimsa, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Christopher K Willis, Kate Braun*

Pseudagrion sjoestedti Förster, 1906

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Small, brick red head and thorax, dark abdomen with blue tip and very red pterostigmas. Very scarce, tree-covered pools in lowveld savanna rivers.

Distribution: In SA, only known from S of Kruger National Park, but not recorded in recent years. *P. s. pseudosjoestedti* also occurs in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, with other colour morphs and subspecies north to Uganda and The Gambia.

Body length: 33-34 mm, **Hindwing length:** 20-20.5 mm

Habitat: Shady deposition pools of rivers, with sunflecks, on rocky savanna rivers.

Behaviour: Perches on reeds in sunflecks, over the water.

Flight period: Feb-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: J H Wilkinson



Pseudagrion spernatum Selys, 1881

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Piggs Peak

Features: Medium-sized, all dark, slate blue, but when mature with heavily pruinescent white powdery face and body, and with large roundish bright blue postocular spots. Grassfringed montane streams through most high-elevation areas.

Distribution: Widespread and abundant, 800-2000 m a.s.l. in mountains of Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga, although much rarer in WCP. Subspecies *P. s. natalense* to Malawi. Other subspecies north to Ethiopia.

Body length: 38-43 mm, **Hindwing length:** 23-26.5 mm

Habitat: Clear, fast-flowing montane streams and rivers with a rich growth of tall grass, reeds and herbs on the banks.

**Upland Sprite**

Behaviour: Conspicuous in its powdery blue, perching along reed blades overhanging water. Female also very conspicuous, being bright blue when mature, and among males, close to the water.

Flight period: Oct-May, with some overwintering adults.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diedericks.

Photos: Peter Webb, Gerhard Diedericks

Pseudagrion sublacteum (Karsch, 1893)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

*Big Bend, Sidvokodvo, Piggs Peak, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Mlawula***Features:** Medium-sized, dark, red-faced, bright red-eyed, rusty to mauvish brown and dull black striped, with bright blue abdominal tip. Swift reaches of warm, savanna rivers.**Distribution:** Central KwaZulu Natal (up to 700 m a.s.l.), Mpumalanga, Northern Cape Province. Namibia north to Central Africa, with different subspecies in West Africa, Arabia and Israel. Also Mayotte.**Body length:** 37-41 mm, **Hindwing length:** 21.5-22.5 mm**Habitat:** Swift savanna rivers, with glides and riffles, and profusion of grass and herbs at margins.**Behaviour:** Perches on algal mats, twigs, weeds and reeds, and occasionally boulders, in or next to fast-flowing water away from bank.**Flight period:** November to May**Comments:** Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks and Wilna Steenkamp.**Photos:** *Kate Braun***Cherry-eye Sprite**

Anisoptera: Aeshnidae

Anaciaeschna triangulifera McLachlan, 1896

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Very large, slender, dark brown with bright blue eyes, head and abdominal saddle, and greenish and blue abdominal spots. Dusk flier over reeds and in clearings in warm areas.

Distribution: Mostly coastal KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo provinces, to Central and East Africa, and Madagascar.

Body length: 62-63 mm, **Hindwing length:** 42 mm

Habitat: Swampy forests with clearings.

Behaviour: In South Africa, flies mostly at dusk swiftly over reed beds, beach vegetation and between trees, as a silhouette in the evening sky. Sometimes feeding swarms of up to 30 individuals occur. Sometimes disturbed by day in thick undergrowth. It takes off only to soon land again in a tangle of dark twigs. On hot, sultry afternoons it may sometimes hover almost motionless, over grass- and reedchoked pools beside forest, or hawking swiftly among trees and over marshy areas.

Flight period: Dec-Apr, but more common early in season.

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: Alan Manson



Anax ephippiger (Burmeister, 1839)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

*Malolotja***Vagrant Emperor**

Features: Large to very large, stout, dark brown and relatively unmarked, with very large blue abdominal saddle, and slightly to very smoky, pointed wings. Flooded grassy and marshy pools in warm areas.

Distribution: FSP, Gauteng, Eastern Cape Province, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu Natal Namibia. To Europe, Indian Ocean islands and West Asia.

Body length: 60-61 mm, **Hindwing length:** 44-45 mm

Habitat: A wide-ranging migrant, it mates and breeds in shallow, flooded, grassy pools, often fringing larger pools.

Behaviour: Hawks rapidly and very close to water surface. Unlike other South Africa aeshnids, tandem pairs are common.

Flight period: November to April, but most common early summer.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Gerhard Diedericks.

Photo: Alan Manson



Anax imperator Leach, 1815

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Big Bend, Maphalaleni Road, Mlawula, Nisela

Features: Very large, bright blue and black. Hawks across pools and dams with abundance of fringing reeds. Throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Widespread and common throughout South Africa, from sea level to 2000 m a.s.l. Continental Africa, to Europe and West Asia.

Body length: 74-75 mm, **Hindwing length:** 50-51 mm

Habitat: Mostly pools and dams with an abundance of waterweed, lilies and fringing reeds.

Behaviour: Hawks rapidly up and down about 1-2 m above water surface, especially along reedy fringes.

Flight period: October to June, occasionally July to September.



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diedericks and Kate Braun.

Photos: Alan Manson, Christopher K Willis

Anax speratus Hagen, 1867

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Pine Valley, Ejubukweni road, Mlawula, Piggs Peak

Features: Enormous, all orange. Flies swiftly up and down streams and small rivers close to water surface. Common along small, montane rivers throughout southern and eastern areas. Localised elsewhere.

Distribution: Throughout much of South Africa from sea level to 1700 m a.s.l. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 76-78 mm, **Hindwing length:** 53-54 mm

Habitat: Bush- or reed-lined streams and small rivers with moderate current, occasionally pools.

Behaviour: Hawks at speed along streams and small rivers in fynbos, grassland, bushy or forested areas, barely 1 m from water surface. Sometimes visits pools. Often seen ovipositing in vegetation just below surface at stream's edge.

(Eastern) Orange Emperor

Flight period: Late September to April.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Kate Braun*

Gynacantha manderica Grünberg, 1902

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Large, slender, mottled brownish, with slightly smoky wings and small, broken, blue saddle. Flies at dusk, resting low in dense vegetation by day along East coast.

Distribution: Coastal lowlands in north of Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and south of Kruger NationalPark.

Body length: 58-59 mm, **Hindwing length:** 37.5-38 mm

Habitat: Pools and dams in or near woodland or forest.

Behaviour: Hawks swiftly over pools or in forest clearings at dusk. Occasionally attracted to light. Rests by day within about 1 m of the ground in dark, thick undergrowth, sometimes hundreds of metres from water.

Flight period: Nov-Apr

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: *Felicity Grundlingh*



Pinheyschna subpupillata (McLachlan, 1896)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Large, all green and brown striped, and spotted. Flies rapidly up and down wooded streams throughout all high montane areas.

Distribution: Throughout hilly to montane areas of South Africa (up to 2000 m a.s.l.), with records from Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Body length: 58-60 mm, **Hindwing length:** 40-41 mm

Habitat: Forested or wooded, swift, montane streams and rivers.

Behaviour: Hawks rapidly up and down over flowing water, resting on bushes at edge.

Flight period: October to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photo: Christopher K Willis



Zosteraeschna minuscula (MacLachlan, 1896)

Possibly occurring in Eswatini

Features: Large, striped and speckled greenish yellow and brownish with distinct blue saddle at base of abdomen. Hawks over reedy pools in many parts of South Africa.

Distribution: Most of South Africa, but only common in Eastern Cape Province and KwaZulu Natal Drakensberg. Records from Namibia.

Body length: 54-55 mm, **Hindwing length:** 37-38 mm

Habitat: Small, open pools with abundance of fringing reeds. Occasionally marshes and pools along streams running through grassland. Mostly montane (up to 2000 m a.s.l.) but occasionally at sea level.

Behaviour: Hawks slowly up and down along margins of pools, often approaching closely, when its colour and pattern can be easily seen.

Flight period: November to May, most common in December.

Comments: Possible occurrence based on Distribution maps in Dragonflies and Damselflies of South Africa. 2008. Michael J. Samways.

Photo: Alan Manson



Anisoptera: Gomphidae

Ceratogomphus pictus Hagen in Selys, 1854

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mantenga, Piggs Peak

Features: Large, yellow, greenish yellow and brownish black, with yellow costa, narrow club formed mostly by large foliations only on S8, and a sharp, forward-pointing dorsal spike on S10. Perches on ground near open pools and on boulders in streams throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Common throughout most of South Africa, up to about 1200 m a.s.l. To D R Congo.

Body length: 53-54 mm, **Hindwing length:** 29-30 mm

Habitat: Open dams, pools, and rivers with pools.

Behaviour: A ground percher, this species frequently rests on bare patches of soil or a small boulder, darting off rapidly when disturbed.

Flight period: Mostly December to April, occasionally October and May.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diedericks and Kate Braun.

Photos: *Kate Braun*



Clubtails
Common Thorntail

Crenigomphus hartmanni (Förster, 1898)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mantenga, Mlilwane

Features: Fairly large, dull yellowish green and brown striped, with very distinct club of two small foliations on each side. Perches on tall grass and herbs fringing swift, savanna rivers.

Distribution: Widely distributed but localised in Eastern Cape Province, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and Western Cape Province up to about 1000 m a.s.l. To Kenya and D R Congo.

Body length: 45-46 mm, **Hindwing length:** 28-29 mm

Habitat: Swift, open savanna streams and rivers, with tall grass nearby.

Behaviour: Perches conspicuously on tops of tall grasses, sedges and short bushes, sometimes many metres from the river. Flight is low over the tall grass.

Clubbed Talontail

Flight period: November to June

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Ernst Klimsa.

Photos: Kate Braun, Christopher K Willis

Gomphidia quarrei (Schouteden, 1934)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula

Features: Fairly large, with a very clearly yellow and black striped thorax, very slender abdomen with a club without foliations.

Distribution: Kruger National Park. To Kenya and D R Congo.

Body length: 51-52 mm, **Hindwing length:** 38-39 mm

Habitat: Bushy fringes of large streams and rivers in savanna areas.

Behaviour: Perches conspicuously on tops of reeds.

Flight period: September to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun.

Photo: *Kate Braun*

Southern Fingertail

Ictinogomphus ferox (Rambur, 1842)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Nisela

Features: Very large, black and dull yellow, tiger-striped, big head and thorax, long thin abdomen with large club. Perches conspicuously at margins of sluggish rivers and marshes, coastal KZNP northwards.

Distribution: Gauteng, Limpopo, common in coastal KwaZulu/Natal (up to 250 m a.s.l., rarely 700 m a.s.l., one individual 1400 m a.s.l.). North to Central Africa.

Body length: 73-75 mm, **Hindwing length:** 42-43 mm

Habitat: Dams, pools, marshes and still reaches of rivers with abundance of reeds, grasses and stout twigs on which to perch.

Behaviour: Perches with abdomen straight or slightly raised on strong twig or reed 1-2 m above water margin. Sometimes hawking among savanna trees, even at dusk.

Common Tigertail

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, Len de Beer and Wilma Steenkamp.

Photos: *Kate Braun*

Lestinogomphus angustus Martin, 1912

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Medium-sized, very slender, narrow-winged, salad green and blackish striped, without foliations. Bush- or treefringed, fast rivers in warm savanna.

Distribution: Localised in Gauteng, north of KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo and Kruger National Park. To Central Africa.

Body length: 38 mm, **Hindwing length:** 21.5-22 mm

Habitat: Dense bush or forest adjacent to rivers in warm coastal KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo savanna, and Mpumalanga and Limpopo lowveld.

Behaviour: Mostly perches under bushes or trees, resting horizontally along grass or stems. Uses S10 as a monopod.

Flight period: Nov-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: Alan Manson



Neurogomphus zambeziensis Cammaerts, 2004

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Fairly large, green and dark brown striped, with slightly smoky wings, wide but short pterostigmas, distinctly clubbed abdominal tip from foliations on S8. Grassland adjacent to large rivers in hot, savanna areas.

Distribution: Very localised North of KwaZulu Natal and Kruger National Park. Not recorded in recent years. To C Africa.

Body length: 45-48 mm, **Hindwing length:** 29-30 mm

Habitat: Tall grass and low bushes in vicinity of meandering reaches of rivers.

Behaviour: Perches on tall grass or low bushes, often far from the river. Flies low, frequently settling.

Flight period: Dec-Apr

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: *Bart Wursten*



Notogomphus praetorius (Selys, 1878)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Fairly large, yellow and black, without a club, with long, mid-dorsal bright yellow stripe running length of abdomen. Clear montane streams.

Distribution: Common in KwaZulu Natal Drakensberg, also Eastern Cape Province, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Lesotho. To Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Body length: 45-48 mm, **Hindwing length:** 29-30 mm

Habitat: Tall grass or on boulders beside or in clear, open, fast high elevation (usually above 1000m a.s.l.) streams, very occasionally near high-elevation dams.

Behaviour: Unlike most other gomphids, this species is a weak flier, easily disturbed from bankside grassland, where it soon lands again. Also, sits on warm stones in small streams. Mostly a late-season species.

Flight period: Late December to May

**Yellowjack Longleg**

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: Christopher K Willis

Onychogomphus supinus Hagen in Selys, 1854

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Malalotja

Features: Fairly large, pale bluish green, yellowish green and brownish black, with reddish brown club. Very local at middle elevation, hot bushy or wooded montane streams and rivers.

Distribution: Very localised, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga, and possibly Limpopo. To Zimbabwe and Angola.

Body length: 45 mm, **Hindwing length:** 27-27.5 mm

Habitat: Rocky streams and shallow, fast rivers in bushy or wooded montane areas, 500-1100 m a.s.l.

Behaviour: Perches on stones in rivers, and on grass stems on bushy banks.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diedericks.

Photos: Alan Manson

Lined Claspertail

Paragomphus cognatus (Rambur, 1842)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mantenga, Piggs Peak

Features: Medium-sized, dark brown and yellow, with reddish brown club. Perches on boulders midstream, very common throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Common throughout much of South Africa from sea level to 2000 m a.s.l. To Kenya and D R Congo.

Body length: 41.5-44 mm, **Hindwing length:** 24-25.5 mm

Habitat: Streams and small rivers with boulders in grassland, bush or woodland.

Behaviour: Short flights, returning mostly to a boulder midstream to perch in sunshine. It manoeuvres on the rock to find the optimal position, often raising club.



Flight period: October to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Christopher K Willis, Kate Braun

Paragomphus elpidius (Ris, 1921)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Features: Medium-sized, greenish, yellowish and brown, with reddish brown club. Alert as it perches on low vegetation or stones beside savanna rivers.

Distribution: Dry river valleys of KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. Occasionally Western Cape Province. To Kenya and D R Congo.

Body length: 40 mm, **Hindwing length:** 25 mm

Habitat: Open, fast, savanna rivers with wide, rubbly banks.

Behaviour: Alert and camouflaged as it perches on twigs, low vegetation and stones close to river.

Flight period: December to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photo: Alan Manson



Paragomphus genei (Selys, 1841)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Big Bend, Mlawula

Features: Medium-sized, with green head and thorax, and yellow and dark brown abdomen with reddish brown club. Wet, gravel beaches of savanna rivers.

Distribution: Sporadic records from Western Cape Province and Eastern Cape Province, but mostly below 800 m in KwaZulu Natal Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Namibia, Eswatini. Common in Kruger National Park. To Mediterranean and Arabian Peninsula.

Body length: 40-40.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 24-25 mm

Habitat: Moist, gravel or sandy shores of savanna rivers with low water levels, and occasionally pools and reservoirs.

Behaviour: Perches, with abdomen raised at an angle, at water's edge. Darts off rapidly, returning again to shore.

Flight period: November to June

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photo: *Kate Braun*



Paragomphus sabicus Pinhey, 1950

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Distribution: Found in Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Habitat: Subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests, dry shrubland, moist shrubland, and rivers.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by historical records, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP.

Photo: Bertie Brink



Phyllogomphus selysi Schouteden, 1933

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Very large, black and yellow striped, with short, black pterostigmas, narrow abdomen with very large, black foliations. Flies among bushes and trees in Mpumalanga lowveld.

Distribution: Mpumalanga lowveld. Also Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Body length: 65-66 mm, **Hindwing length:** 38-39 mm

Habitat: Large meandering rivers in lowveld savanna bush and forest near rivers. Adults usually in bush away from water.

Behaviour: Flies high and fast among bushes and trees, settling occasionally, but alert.

Flight period: November to April

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: J H Wilkinson



Anisoptera: Corduliidae

Phyllomacromia contumax Selys, 1879

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mbuluzi Game Reserve

Features: Very large, all black and yellow, with distinct yellow waist and wide yellow band near abdominal tip. Cruises in forest clearings in warm, low-elevation, open, coastal forest.

Distribution: Coastal KwaZulu Natal, occasionally up to 1250 m a.s.l., mostly in Mpumalanga and Limpopo. One Western Cape Province record. To Central Africa.

Body length: 76-78 mm, **Hindwing length:** 53-54 mm

Habitat: Mostly away from water, at forest margins and along vehicle tracks. Mostly moist, open, coastal forest, although some hinterland records at streams. In coastal areas, females frequent lake edges.

Behaviour: Mostly cruising up and down forest margins, rarely flying more than 2 m above the ground, often passing close by. Sometimes cruises along lake edges and streams.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Wilna Steenkamp.

Photo: *Kate Braun*

Cruisers, Emeralds Two-banded Cruiser



Phyllomacromia picta (Hagen in Selys, 1871)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula

Features: Fairly large to large, very striped-and-ringed, black-and-yellow. Bushy Habitats throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Scattered records 100 - 1600 m a.s.l. across South Africa. To Central Africa.

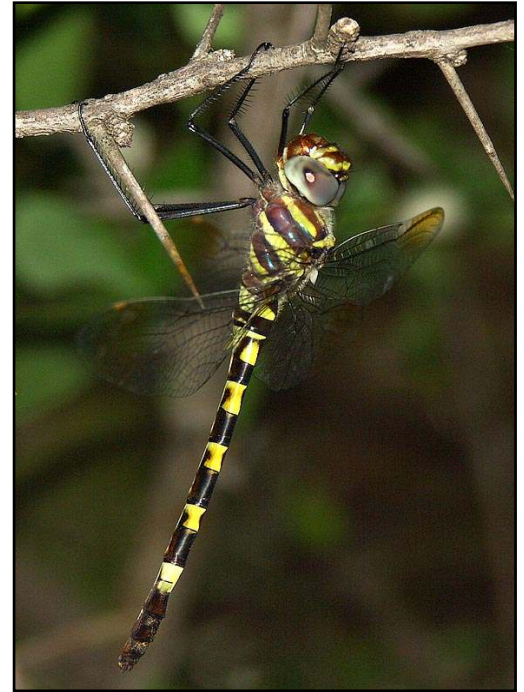
Body length: 50-55 mm, **Hindwing length:** 32-35 mm

Habitat: Large dams and rivers in association with trees in open grassland or in thick bush.

Behaviour: Fast, darting flight over grassland between trees and along rivers.

Flight period: November to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

**Darting Cruiser**

Photos: Christopher K Willis

Anisoptera: Libellulidae

Acisoma inflatum Selys, 1882

Photo by Ernst Klimsa

Mlilwane

Features: Very small to small, bluish grey and black mosaic, with a conspicuously bulbous then very slender abdomen. Pools and still reaches of rivers with lilies and sedges in warm areas.

Distribution: Coastal North KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga lowveld, Limpopo. To North Africa and Madagascar. Subspecies *panorpooides* occurs in Asia and *ascalaphoides* in Africa.

Body length: 28.5-33.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 21-23 mm

Habitat: Pools, pans, marshes and still reaches of rivers with an abundance of lilies, sedges and grasses.



Skimmers, Dropwings Stout Pintail

Behaviour: Almost a wasp-like, darting flight low over floating vegetation, frequently settling on emergent vegetation, usually at least a metre from bank.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Ernst Klimsa.

Photos: *Christopher K Willis*

Acisoma variegatum Kirby, 1898

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Distribution: Eastern and south-eastern Africa; Ethiopia to Katanga and north-eastern South Africa.

Habitat: Found in open marsh, often in low-lying and expansive areas such as flood plains. Also found near ponds and reservoirs.

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: Gerhard Diedericks , Christopher K Willis



Brachythemis lacustris (Kirby, 1889)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Mlawula, Mnjoli Dam

Features: Small, stocky, bright red, with large orange splashes on wings. Gregarious on grass stems, edges of small, tree-fringed meandering rivers in hot areas.

Distribution: Northern Kwazulu-Natal and Mpumalanga lowveld.]

Body length: 31.5-32.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 22-22.5 mm

Habitat: Meandering, partially tree-lined streams and rivers fringed with tall grass.

Behaviour: Very gregarious, often with several individuals of both sexes perching along same grass stem at water's edge.

Flight period: November to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Wilna Steenkamp.



Photos: Kate Braun



Brachythemis leucosticta (Burmeister, 1839)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

*Mlawula, Nisela, Mlilwane, Mnjoli Dam***Features:** Small, unmistakable, black-bodied with black bands on each wing and yellowish pterostigmas. Ground perching in warm savanna.**Distribution:** Northern Cape Province, Western Province, Limpopo, northern KwaZulu Natal (up to 700 m a.s.l.) and Mpumalanga lowveld and Eswatini. To East and West Africa.**Body length:** 29-31 mm, **Hindwing length:** 23.5-25 mm**Habitat:** Dry, heavily-grazed savanna near pools, dams and sluggish reaches of rivers. Mostly away from water, along dirt tracks, between trees, or on fringes of receding pools with unvegetated beaches.**Behaviour:** Gregarious, flying low to ground, often following observer, as it would follow walking game, catching small insects put to flight by**Southern Banded Groundling**

the movement. Frequently perches on bare ground. Female often with male, but mating pairs rarely seen.

Flight period: November to May**Comments:** Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks, Ernst Klimsa and Tina Petterson, and SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).**Photos:** Kate Braun

Bradinopyga cornuta Ris, 1911

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula, Pine Valley, Sidvokodvo

Features: Medium-sized, all mottled brown and grey, with horned head, long wings and short abdomen. Settles on rocky domes.

Distribution: In South Africa, one old coastal KwaZulu-Natal record and one highveld (Groblersdal) record, otherwise fairly common in south of Mpumalanga lowveld. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 42-43 mm, **Hindwing length:** 33-35 mm

Habitat: Rocky outcrops and domes with rain pools, in which it breeds, close to rocky, fast, lowveld rivers.

Behaviour: Settles on bare rocky outcrops and domes where it is very camouflaged. Extremely alert, and flies off rapidly when disturbed and



usually returning later. Female usually with male.

Flight period: September to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks.

Photos: Kate Braun

Horned Rockdweller

Crocothemis erythraea (Brullé, 1832)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Dwaleni, Maphalaleni Road, Piggs Peak, Nisela, Ngwempisi River, Mlawula, Malolotja, Lubombo Mountains, Tikhuba, Big Bend, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Maguga Dam

Features: Medium-sized, wide-bodied, all bright red, with small basal amber patch on hindwing. Pools and still reaches of rivers throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Throughout South Africa from sea level to 1600 m a.s.l. To Europe and West Asia.

Body length: 39-40 mm, **Hindwing length:** 29-30 mm

Habitat: Pools and shallow, still reaches of streams and rivers, usually with an abundance of floating and emergent vegetation, although sometimes rocky.



Behaviour: Perches conspicuously, usually close to water surface, on lilies, reeds and twigs, sometimes on rocks. Strong, darting flight when disturbed.

Flight period: October to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks, and SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Kate Braun*

Crocothemis sanguinolenta (Burmeister, 1839)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

*Maphalaleni Valley, Mlawula, Pine Valley, Mantenga, Malolotja, Rosecraft Farm, Mahamba Gorge***Features:** Small to medium-sized, all bright red. Usually on stones or bare soil near rocky streams throughout much of South Africa.**Distribution:** Throughout much of South Africa, rarely above 800 m a.s.l. in KwaZulu Natal but occasionally up to 1600 m in Limpopo. To Middle East and also Madagascar.**Body length:** 35-37 mm, **Hindwing length:** 27-28 mm**Habitat:** Rocky streams with pools, in open situations, such as low fynbos or open savanna.**Behaviour:** Alert as it perches on stones or bare soil, in or away from streams. Very rarely perches on vegetation.**Flight period:** November to May**Comments:** Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun.**Photos:** *Kate Braun*

Diplacodes lefebvrei (Rambur, 1842)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlilwane

Features: Very small to small, all black. Grassy pools in many parts of South Africa up to 1800 m a.s.l.

Distribution: In many parts of South Africa. To North Africa and many neighbouring islands. The subspecies *tetra* occurs in Madagascar and Mauritius.

Body length: 27-33 mm, **Hindwing length:** 20.5-25 mm

Habitat: Pools, swamps, marshes, tarns and occasionally quiet reaches of rivers with an abundance of grasses and other swamp vegetation.

Behaviour: Only flies short distances, rarely perching more than 0.5 m above the water, and usually on tall grass.



Flight period: All year, although rare in winter, in warm areas, and November to May at higher elevations.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kernst Klimsa, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Christopher K Willis*

Diplacodes luminans Kirby, 1889

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Small to medium-sized, red head and thorax, but yellow and black abdomen, and orange patches at bases of wings. Shallow, marshy pools in warm areas.

Distribution: Coastal, Central and Northern KwaZulu Natal (up to 400 m a.s.l., but occasionally wanders to 800 m a.s.l.), Mpumalanga lowveld and Limpopo Province. To East and West Africa, and Assumption Island.

Body length: 36-39 mm, **Hindwing length:** 27-30 mm

Habitat: Shallow pans and marshes with lilies and an abundance of tall grasses, sedges and reeds.

Behaviour: Perches very conspicuously on tips of sedges or reeds in open water.

Flight period: Nov-Apr

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.



Photos: J H Wilkinson, Alan Manson

Hemistigma albipunctum (Rambur, 1842)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Small, slender, powdery pale blue dragonfly with creamish face with a shiny slightly blue metallic frons with creamish dot either side, and forewing usually with a black streak and a smoky patch, and pterostigmas distinctly whitish on inside yet blackish on outside. Swamps and marshes in warm areas.

Distribution: Common from Durban north along KwaZulu Natal coast. Also Limpopo Province. To Central Africa.

Body length: 29.5-35 mm, **Hindwing length:** 22.5-25 mm

Habitat: Reed-choked marshes and swamps, sometimes with minimal water.

Behaviour: Perches on reed or grass stems, darting out, then returning to perch, often a different one.



Flight period: Nov-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: Bertie Brink, Alan Manson

Nesciothemis farinosa (Förster, 1898)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Ejubukweni road, Piggs Peak, Mlilwane, Mlawula, Maguga, Mantenga

Features: Medium-sized to fairly large, fairly robust, strikingly blackheaded, very pale powdery bluish-grey with a black tail. Pools and quiet reaches of rivers in much of South Africa.

Distribution: Throughout much of South Africa, but more common in warm areas and local on highveld. Up to 1200 m a.s.l. in KwaZulu Natal. To Egypt and southern Arabia.

Body length: 40-46 mm, **Hindwing length:** 30.5-35 mm

Habitat: Pools, pans and particularly sluggish reaches of rivers with an abundance of tall grass and reeds.

Behaviour: Very conspicuous as it perches on reeds and makes short sorties and returns to its perch.

Flight period: October to May



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, Tina Petterson, Pam Sai, G Diedericks and Ernst Klimsa, and SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Notiothemis jonesi Ris, 1919

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mantenga

Features: Small, alert, greyish, grizzled, with whitish splash near tip of abdomen, bright turquoise eyes. Pools and streams in forests.

Distribution: East coast of Eastern Cape Province, coastal Kwazulu-Natal up to 800 m a.s.l. To Uganda.

Body length: 32-33 mm, **Hindwing length:** 24-25 mm

Habitat: Woodland, thick savanna and forest pools, slow streams and sluggish reaches of rivers.

Behaviour: An alert little species that perches conspicuously on reeds or twigs over water in dappled shade. Female very rarely seen.

Flight period: December to March

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun.

**Eastern Forestwatcher**

Photos: Kate Braun, Alan Manson

Olpogastra lugubris Karsch, 1895

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Large, very unusual, elegant, with extremely swollen abdomen base, then long, very slender abdomen, metallic blackish and dull yellow. Among tall reeds at margins of pools, lakes and rivers. Localised in hot areas.

Distribution: Lowveld and Kruger National Park, and Limpopo. To E and W Africa.

Body length: 57-59 mm, **Hindwing length:** 38-39 mm

Habitat: Tall reeds at margins of pools, lakes, and sluggish reaches of rivers.

Behaviour: Flits up and down, resting on twigs. Sometimes low among reeds. Also glides among trees high in the air.

Flight period: Dec-Apr

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: Alan Manson



Orthetrum abbotti Calvert, 1892

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mantenga

Features: Small to medium-sized, all pale blue with slightly smoky wings and long, light-brown pterostigmas. Mostly marshy, upland stream margins.

Distribution: Western Cape Province and Eastern Cape Province northwards, up to 1800 m a.s.l. To Central Africa, the subspecies *malgassicum* in Madagascar.

Body length: 36-37 mm, **Hindwing length:** 26-26.5 mm

Habitat: Marshy pools beside montane grassy, trickling streams, especially in rolling, open grass land. Occasionally lowland pans.

Behaviour: Weak flight, frequently returning to same grass or reed perch.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Christopher K Willis, Kate Braun*

**Little Skimmer**

Orthetrum caffrum (Burmeister, 1839)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula, Malolotja, Mbuluzi Game Reserve

Features: Medium-sized, pale blue, with brownish thorax, with two, pale side stripes, and a distinctive cream line between wings. Pools and still parts of streams, mostly in montane areas.

Distribution: Throughout most of montane South Africa, above 700 m a.s.l. in KwaZulu Natal although almost to sea level in SW of Western Cape Province. To Central Africa, and Madagascar.

Body length: 40-41 mm, **Hindwing length:** 28.5-29.5 mm

Habitat: Montane pools, still reaches of streams and marshes.

Behaviour: Perches on sticks or reeds over water, darting out to feed, defend territory or court, returning to perch.

**Two-Striped Skimmer**

Flight period: October to March

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Kate Braun*

Orthetrum chrysostigma (Burmeister, 1839)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Ejubukweni road, Maguga, Maphalaleni Valley, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Mlawula, Mnjoli Dam, Sidvokodvo, Timbutini Hill

Features: Medium-sized to fairly large, brownish and pale blue, with a light, single stripe on side of thorax. Rocky streams in fynbos or bushy savanna.

Distribution: Throughout much of South Africa up to 1500 m a.s.l. To Mediterranean.

Body length: 42-45.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 31-32 mm

Habitat: Shallow, rocky streams and pools in fairly dry areas.

Behaviour: Darts swiftly over water or grassy river flats, frequently returning to same perch, which may be a stem, boulder or ground.

Flight period: Oct to May, with occasional winter individuals.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by Christopher K Willis, Kate Braun, Gerhard Diederick and Pam Sai, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Kate Braun*



Orthetrum hintzi Schmidt, 1951

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Malolotja, Mlilwane

Features: Medium-sized, fairly slender, all pruinescent blue. Marshy, mostly warm areas.

Distribution: Eastern Cape Province, KwaZulu Natal (up to 800 m a.s.l.), North West Province, Limpopo and Eswatini. To Central Africa.

Body length: 37-38 mm, **Hindwing length:** 25-26 mm

Habitat: Marshes and marshy sectors of rivers.

Behaviour: Rather slow, zig-zag flight, frequently returning to same perch, which is usually a grass stem close to the ground and not usually overwater.

Flight period: November to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diedericks, Kate Braun and Ernst Klimsa, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Dark-shouldered Skimmer

Photos: Christopher K Willis, Peter Webb

Orthetrum icteromelas Ris, 1910

Possibly occurring in Eswatini

Features: Medium-sized, fairly slender, all evenly pruinose blue. Grassy and reedy pools in warm areas.

Distribution: Widespread in Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal (up to 1100 m a.s.l.), Mpumalanga, North West Province, Limpopo. To Central Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius.

Body length: 43-44.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 28-29 mm

Habitat: Shallow, flooded pools and flooded margins of rivers with an abundance of long, emergent grasses.

Behaviour: Perches on grasses and reeds in shallow water, darting out, and returning to same perch. Frequently takes dragonflies as prey, some as large as itself.

Flight period: Oct to May

**Spectacled Skimmer**

Comments: Possible occurrence based on Distribution maps in Dragonflies and Damselflies of South Africa. 2008. Michael J. Samways.

Photos: Alan Manson

Orthetrum julia falsum Kirby, 1900

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Rosecraft Farm, Malolotja, Mantenga, Mlawula, Mlilwane, Pine Valley

Features: Fairly large, robust, with a brownish to bluish weakly mottled and striped thorax, and light blue abdomen. Streams and pools in wooded areas in most of South Africa, but in more open Habitats in Western Cape Province.

Distribution: Throughout much of South Africa. Eastern Cape Province northwards.

Body length: 45-49 mm, **Hindwing length:** 31-36 mm

Habitat: Dappled shade in thick bush or forest. Often in shady gardens and along hedgerows.

Behaviour: Conspicuous as it perches in sunflecks in woodlands, forests or gardens, darting fast after prey or to chase an intruder, or perches conspicuously on grass stems, often over water. Females often enter houses.

Flight period: Throughout year, although scarce in winter.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, Pam Sai, Wilna Steenkamp and Ernst Klimsa, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).



Photos: Kate Braun

Orthetrum machadoi Longfield, 1955

Possibly occurring in Eswatini

Features: Medium-sized, fairly robust, all pruinescent blue. Localised at swamps and marshes in the warmer areas of South Africa.

Distribution: Localised in Cedarberg (Western Cape Province), Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal (up to 1100 m a.s.l.), Limpopo. To Ethiopia and Sierra Leone.

Body length: 37.5-41 mm, **Hindwing length:** 28-30 mm

Habitat: Marshy grassland, shallow grassy swamps and grassy, flooded margins of rivers.

Behaviour: Perches on grasses and sedges, darting out, then returning to perch.

Flight period: September to April

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.



Photos: Christopher K Willis

Orthetrum stemmale (Burmeister, 1839)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

*Mlawula***Features:** Fairly large, robust, all-pruinose greyish dragonfly of bushy savanna.**Distribution:** Localised, from Cape Peninsula and parts of WCP to lowland KwaZulu Natal Limpopo and Namibia. To Central Africa and some Indian Ocean islands.**Body length:** 47-49 mm, **Hindwing length:** 35-36 mm**Habitat:** Soggy parts of streams and marshy areas in mostly bushy savanna.**Behaviour:** Strong, darting flight, frequently returning to perch, which may be among bushes away from water.**Flight period:** Dec-May**Comments:** Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun.**Photos:** Kate Braun, Alan Manson**Bold Skimmer**

Orthetrum trinacria (Selys, 1841)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Nisela

Features: Large, elongated, all deep pruinulent blue. Pools and marshes throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Throughout much of South Africa, including Cape Peninsula. To Mediterranean.

Body length: 53-58 mm, **Hindwing length:** 35-37 mm

Habitat: Shallow pans, pools and grassy margins of lakes and dams. In the Cedarberg it patrols grassy margins of streams.

Behaviour: A strong flier at water margins and over marshy areas, frequently perching on reeds or stems, usually over water. Often preys on large insects, including other dragonflies and butterflies.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Gerhard Diedericks.

Long Skimmer

Photos: Christopher K Willis, Alan Manson

Palpopleura deceptor (Calvert, 1899)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Features: Small, very pale greyish blue pruinescent species, with black tail tip and blackish streak and spot on each forewing. Marshy pools in warm areas.

Distribution: Localised, Limpopo, North West Province and Kruger National Park. To Central Africa and Somalia.

Body length: 29-31 mm, **Hindwing length:** 24-24.5 mm

Habitat: Clear, shallow pools and margins of dams with an abundance of tall grass and reeds.

Behaviour: A darting flight, but instantly returns to a reed perch over water. Female rarely at the water's edge.

Flight period: December to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photo: J H Wilkinson



Palpopleura jucunda Rambur, 1842

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

*Dwaleni, Malolotja, Mantenga, Maphalaleni Road***Features:** Very small, brown and powdery pale blue with striking wings splashed in dark brown and yellow. Marshy parts of rivers in much of South Africa.**Distribution:** Widespread but localised across the southern and eastern regions of South Africa. To Ethiopia and Sudan.**Body length:** 22-24 mm, **Hindwing length:** 16-17 mm**Habitat:** Marshy spots along streams and shallow rivers, and sometimes pools and vleis.**Behaviour:** A butterfly-like flight but darting on hot days, low among vegetation, especially grasses. Frequently perches high on grass stems.**Flight period:** October to May, but most common late season.**Yellow-Veined Widow****Comments:** Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Pam Sai, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).**Photos:** Kate Braun

Palpopleura lucia (Drury, 1773)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Maguga

Features: Very small to small, powdery blue body and extensive jet black patches, with undulating hind margins on all wings, and that run from wing bases to pterostigmas. Pools, marshes and sluggish reaches of streams in warm areas.

Distribution: Very common, east coast to lowveld, north and northwest. Up to 200 m a.s.l. in KwaZulu Natal. Throughout tropical Africa.

Body length: 28.5-31 mm, **Hindwing length:** 23-24.5 mm

Habitat: Garden ponds, natural pools, pans, swamps, marshes and, sluggish reaches of rivers with an abundance of grasses and reeds.

Behaviour: Very conspicuous with its blue body and extensive black wing markings as it perches on stems, usually over water or marshy land.

Flight period: November to May



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Pam Sai, R B Tate and Gerhard Diedericks, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Kate Braun*

Palpopleura portia (Drury, 1773)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Dwaleni, Mantenga, Mlawula, Mlilwane, Piggs Peak

Features: Very small to small, powdery blue body and jet black, deeply notched patches on all wings, and that run from wing bases to pterostigmas. Pools, marshes and sluggish reaches of streams in warm areas.

Distribution: Very common, east coast to lowveld and arid north and northwest. To Central Africa. Up to 800 m a.s.l. in KwaZulu Natal. To East and West Africa, Madagascar and Comoros.

Body length: 25-29 mm, **Hindwing length:** 20-25 mm

Habitat: Garden ponds, natural pools, pans, swamps, marshes and sluggish reaches of rivers with an abundance of grasses and reeds.

Behaviour: Very conspicuous with its blue body and distinctive black wing markings as it perches on stems, usually over water or marshy land.

**Portia Widow**

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks and Ernst Klimsa.

Photos: *Kate Braun*



Pantala flavescens (Fabricius, 1798)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Maguga, Mlawula

Features: Fairly large, tapered abdomen, yellowish brown or light orange. Usually away from water, in small groups, wheeling back and forth, between bushes and in forest clearings. Very common throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Throughout South Africa, even to over 2000 m a.s.l., but especially common in bushy savanna and coastal KwaZulu Natal. Panglobal in tropics and subtropics.

Body length: 47-50 mm, **Hindwing length:** 38.5-41 mm

Habitat: Breeds in shallow, grassy, warm, temporary pools, although usually seen away from water, especially in savanna.

Behaviour: Wheels and glides, sometimes singly but usually in small groups, along roadsides, gardens, forest clearings and between bushes. Often oviposits in swimming pools, and even attempting on windscreens, mistaking shiny surface for water.

Flight period: Late November to May. Highly migratory.

**Wandering Glider**

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Tina Petterson and Gerhard Diedericks, and SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Rhyothemis semihyalina (Desjardins, 1832)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Small, unmistakable, slender, black body, with large, metallic black basal splash on hindwings. Fluttering flight at lily and grassy pools in warm areas.

Distribution: East Cape coast northwards along coastal KwaZulu Natal (occasionally to 1000 m a.s.l.), Mpumalanga, Limpopo and occasionally Western Cape Province. To North Africa and western Indian Ocean islands.

Body length: 34-35 mm, **Hindwing length:** 31-32 mm

Habitat: Marshy, shallow pools with lilies, and fringed with grasses and reeds.

Behaviour: Distinctly fluttering flight, like a butterfly, landing on lilies or reeds in pool. Sometimes flying in tree tops.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: *Christopher K Willis*



Sympetrum fonscolombii (Selys, 1840)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlilwane, Malolotja

Features: Medium-sized, reddish orange, with brownish head and thorax. Reedy margins of pools throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Throughout South Africa even up to 2700m a.s.l., but may not breed at such high elevations. To Europe, Madagascar and Asia.

Body length: 38-41 mm, **Hindwing length:** 27-30 mm

Habitat: Reedy and grassy margins of pools and dams, although sometimes in grassland far from water.

Behaviour: A wanderer or migrant, particularly in early summer. At pools, perches conspicuously on reed stems over water along fringes of still water.

Flight period: September to May but most abundant October to November and a few individuals may be seen mid-winter.

**Red-veined Darter or Nomad**

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Ernst Klimsa.

Photos: Christopher K Willis

Tetrathemis polleni (Selys, 1869)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Small, unmistakable, pale blue, slender, with huge, roundish black splashes on ends all wings. Perches conspicuously on twigs over shaded, forest pools east of Drakensberg escarpment.

Distribution: East coast of Eastern Cape Province, coastal KwaZulu Natal, Kruger National Park and Limpopo. To West Africa, Madagascar and Comoros.

Body length: 30-32.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 24-25 mm

Habitat: Forest pools and still reaches of rivers with a bush or forest canopy over water.

Behaviour: Perches conspicuously, often with wings forward, head down and abdomen up at an angle, on a twig in shade over still water. Occasionally at forest edges away from water. Flight fluttering but strong, and soon returns to perch.

Flight period: October to March

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.



Photos: Christopher K Willis, Alan Manson

Keyhole Glider

Tramea basilaris (Palisot de Beauvois, 1817)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Fairly large, tapered abdomen, light reddish and brown, with black abdominal tip, and very jagged, dark red, basal hindwing patches. Perches on tops of bushes and glides between trees, especially in bushy savanna.

Distribution: Throughout South Africa, although by far most common in the bushy savanna and coastal wetlands of KwaZulu Natal. All Africa, and to Asia.

Body length: 45-49 mm, **Hindwing length:** 38-39 mm

Habitat: Although breeds in pools with abundance of reeds, a dult is usually in bushy savanna.

Behaviour: Perches on top of low bushes or glides in the open among trees, usually singly but sometimes in small groups.

Flight period: December to May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.



Photos: Kate Braun

Tramea limbata (Desjardins, 1832)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Fairly large, tapered abdomen, deep red and brown, with black abdominal tip, and rounded droplet-shaped, dark red, basal hindwing patches. Perches on tops of bushes and glides between trees, especially in coastal northern KwaZulu Natal.

Distribution: Throughout much of South Africa, but rare on highveld, and by far most common in coastal northern KwaZulu Natal. Tropical and sub-tropical Africa, especially coastal, and Western Indian Ocean islands.

Body length: 45-50 mm, **Hindwing length:** 38-42 mm

Habitat: Breeds in shallow pools and pans, but flies in humid, bushy country.

Behaviour: Glides singly or in small groups between bushes and trees usually within a few tens or hundreds of metres of breeding pools. In cloudy conditions and on very hot days perches on top of bushes.

Flight period: December to May, with occasional individuals in winter.



Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photos: Alan Manson

Trithemis aconita Lieftinck, 1969

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Small, slender and dark blue, with yellow dashes on abdomen. Perches on twigs under trees over rocky savanna streams.

Distribution: Localised in KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga lowveld and Limpopo. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 32-33 mm, **Hindwing length:** 30-31 mm

Habitat: Rocky, savanna rivers, with bushes and trees overhanging water.

Behaviour: Alert as it perches on twigs under tree canopy over water.

Flight period: Dec-Mar

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.

Photo: J H Wilkinson



Trithemis annulata (Palisot de Beauvois, 1807)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

*Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Mlawula, Nisela, Sidvokodvo***Features:** Small to medium-sized, distinctly stout and violet red. Perches on twigs at or near still or sluggish water in warm areas.**Distribution:** Widespread and locally common. Western Cape Province, Eastern Cape Province, coastal KwaZulu Natal (up to 200 m a.s.l.), Mpumalanga lowveld, Limpopo. Common in Kruger National Park. To Europe and Asia Minor. Also Madagascar and Mascarenes.**Body length:** 35-37 mm, **Hindwing length:** 30-31 mm**Habitat:** Pools, marshes and sluggish reaches of rivers, with bushes and trees nearby.**Behaviour:** Perches conspicuously on a twig or reed, over water. On hot days and evenings will move away from water and perch on twigs on trees.**Flight period:** November to May**Violet Drowwing****Comments:** Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks and Wilna Steenkamp.**Photos:** *Kate Braun, Christopher K Willis*

Trithemis arteriosa (Burmeister, 1839)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mbuluzi causeway, Pine Valley, Dwaleni, Manzimnyama, Rosecraft Farm, Piggs Peak, Mlilwane, Mlawula, Maphalaleni Road, Mantenga, Ejubukweni road, Maguga, Enrich Dam, Mbuluzi Game Reserve, Summerfield

Features: Small, slender, bright red, with bright red wing veins and black on side of tip of abdomen. Very common at still water throughout South Africa.

Distribution: Very common and abundant throughout South Africa. To North Africa, Canaries and Asia Minor.

Body length: 32-36 mm, **Hindwing length:** 26-27.5 mm

Habitat: Pools, dams, marshes and still and sluggish reaches of rivers.

**Red-veined Dropwing**

Behaviour: Perches conspicuously on emergent twigs or reeds at water's edge, but on hot days will move into the shade of trees.

Flight period: All year, but more common in summer months.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Tina Petterson, Pam Sai, Gerhard Diedericks and Wilna Steenkamp, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: *Kate Braun*

Trithemis donaldsoni (Calvert, 1899)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula

Features: Medium-sized, slender, all light blue with contrasting dark brown eyes, and very metallic top of head. Open, shallow, rocky savanna rivers.

Distribution: Localised, northern KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga lowveld, Limpopo. To Ethiopia and West Africa.

Body length: 40-41.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 32-33.5 mm

Habitat: Shallow, rocky, rivers in open, hot, savanna.

Behaviour: Perches mostly on stones midstream, occasionally on twigs. Very alert, and with strong flight, frequently darting off, to return to same perch. Female usually far from water.

Flight period: November to May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun.

Photo: Kate Braun



Highland Drowwing

Trithemis dorsalis (Rambur, 1842)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Malolotja, Pine Valley, Maphalaleni Road, Mbuluzi causeway

Features: Medium-sized, all deep blue. Tall grass bordering lakes, dams and river pools, mostly at higher elevations. Throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Common at elevations above 700 m a.s.l., especially above 1000 m a.s.l., although at lower elevations in Western Cape Province. Throughout South Africa, except coastal areas. Principally a Drakensberg and highveld species. To East and Central Africa.

Body length: 37.5-38.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 27.5-29 mm

Habitat: Mostly large lakes and dams, and still reaches of rivers. Rarely smaller pools or swift rivers.

Behaviour: Perches on tall grass and reeds at water's edge, rarely on stones. Female usually nearby.

Flight period: November to May



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun, Gerhard Diedericks and Wilna Steenkamp, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Trithemis furva Karsch, 1899

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Pine Valley, Maphalaleni Valley, Phophonyane, Mbuluzi causeway, Mantenga, Malolotja, Maguga, Ejubukweni road, Piggs Peak, Maphalaleni Road

Features: Medium-sized, all dark blue. On stones and twigs mostly in swift, lowland rivers throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Very common at low elevations (below 700 m a.s.l.) throughout much of South Africa. Occasionally at higher elevations, especially in Limpopo, with one record at 1700 m a.s.l. Localised on highveld. To Ethiopia and West Africa.

Body length: 37.5-38.5 mm, **Hindwing length:** 27.5-29 mm

Habitat: Usually rocky, shallow rivers with clumps of tall grass among rocks. Rarely pools and stiller reaches of rivers.



Behaviour: Mostly perches on rocks, where it looks almost blackish, or on twigs and reeds at water's edge. Female usually away from the water, among tall grass or small bushes.

Flight period: All year, but much more common in summer.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, Len de Beer and Gerhard Diedericks, and SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Trithemis kirbyi Selys, 1891

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Lubombo Mountains, Mnyame Gorge, Summerfield, Piggs Peak, Mlawula, Mantenga, Maguga, Big Bend, Dwaleni, Malolotja

Features: Small to medium-sized, bright orangish red, with large orange splashes on all wings. Perches mostly on rocks in or beside shallow rivers, mostly in arid or savanna areas. Common in Kruger National Park.

Distribution: Throughout much of South Africa. To West Africa and Arabian Peninsula, and across Asia.

Body length: 35-38 mm, **Hindwing length:** 25-26.5 mm

Habitat: Shallow, rocky rivers and rock pools, even temporary ones, in arid areas or hot savanna. Around water troughs and swimming pools.

Behaviour: Very conspicuous with its bright colours as it perches on rocks. Female rarely seen, but darts over a river pool to cast its eggs, and rapidly escorted by male. When water levels drop and when conditions are very hot, male may perch on twigs over drying-out pools.

**Orange-winged Dropwing**

Flight period: November to May, with occasional winter individuals.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photo by Kate Braun, Tina Petterson, Phillip Nieuwoudt and Gerhard Diedericks, and by SA damselflies and dragonflies checklist (Durban Natural Science Museum, 2000).

Photos: Kate Braun

Trithemis pluvialis Förster, 1906

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Malolotja, Mlawula

Features: Medium-sized, bright orange tending to bright reddish, with small rounded, orange splashes on hindwing. Perches conspicuously on reed and sedge stems in swift, rocky, reedlined, bushy savanna rivers. Localised in S, North and East of South Africa.

Distribution: Localised, Limpopo highveld and middle-elevation KwaZulu Natal and Mpumalanga, 600-1500 m a.s.l. Occasionally Western Cape Province. To East Africa.

Body length: 37-39 mm, **Hindwing length:** 29-30 mm

Habitat: Swift, wide, rocky rivers in bushy savanna, and with extensive reed margins. Often occurs singly in isolated and unexpected localities.

Behaviour: Conspicuous as it perches on reeds at margins of riffles.

Flight period: November to April



Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks.

Photos: Kate Braun, Christopher K Willis

Trithemis stictica (Burmeister, 1839)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Pine Valley, Piggs Peak, Maphalaleni Road, Enrich Dam

Features: Small, unmistakable, powdery blue thorax, black and yellow abdomen, turquoise eyes, and a faint, central, orangy area in hindwing. Conspicuous and alert at margins of stillwater. Common throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Throughout much of South Africa, 0-2000 m a.s.l. To Ethiopia and West Africa.

Body length: 35-37 mm, **Hindwing length:** 26.5-28 mm

Habitat: Margins of pools along quiet reaches of rivers and streams, and pools

Behaviour: Very alert as it perches conspicuously on a stick or reed at river or pool margins, often darting out to defend territory. Readily responds to hot sunlight by moving its abdomen into almost vertical, obelisk position, with wings well forward.

Flight period: November to May, with occasional winter individuals.

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks.

**Jaunty Dropwing**

Photos: Kate Braun

Elegant Drowpwing***Trithemis wernerii*** Ris, 1912

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Medium sized, slender, orangy to dull red. Perches on bushes under trees facing wide, open, savanna rivers. In South Africa, only known from Kruger National Park.

Distribution: Localised, known from Kruger National Park, especially Sabie River, and north of KwaZulu Natal. To Sudan.

Body length

Hindwing length

Habitat: Wide, swift, open, rocky and reedy savanna rivers with large trees lining upper banks.

Behaviour: Alert as it perches on twigs on top of bushes near or below high tree canopy and facing river. May be 100 m or more from water. Female often perching in same Habitat.

Flight period: Nov-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.



Photos: Alan Manson, R M Tippett

Urothemis assignata (Selys, 1872)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Medium-sized stout, bright red, with large dark red hindwing splashes. Perches conspicuously on tops of reeds at marshy pools in warm areas.

Distribution: East Cape coast, North along coast, Kruger National Park (up to about 250 m a.s.l.) and Limpopo. Tropical and subtropical Africa.

Body length: 37-41 mm, **Hindwing length:** 34-35 mm

Habitat: Pools and marshes with abundance of reeds.

Behaviour: Conspicuous as it perches on reed tips at water's edge. Strong flight but soon returns to perch.

Flight period: Nov-May

Comments: Possible occurrence in Eswatini based on UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records adjacent to Eswatini.



Photos: J H Wilkinson, Jacobus Labuschagne

Urothemis edwardsii (Selys, 1849)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP Eswatini species list 2018

Features: Medium-sized, stout, dark blue and black, with blackish hindwing patches. Perches on reeds at pools and marshes in warm areas.

Distribution: Coastal North of KwaZulu Natal (occasionally up to 800 m a.s.l.), Mpumalanga, Limpopo. Throughout tropical Africa, with relict populations in Algeria and formerly Israel, where it is now thought to be extinct. Also Mayotte.

Body length: 40-42 mm, **Hindwing length:** 33.5-35 mm

Habitat: Reedy pools and marshes, occasionally grassland.

Behaviour: Perches on reed tips near water, or on twigs, bushes or grass stems away from water.

Flight period: Dec-May

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by UCT-ADU OdonataMAP records.



Photos: Christopher K Willis, Alan Manson

Zygonoides fuelleborni (Grünberg, 1902)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Lusushwana River, Mlawula

Features: Fairly large to large, black and yellow, robust, with very swollen base to abdomen. Patrols swift rivers. Settling on rocks, in hot savanna.

Distribution: Localised, KwaZulu Natal below 850 m a.s.l., Mpumalanga, Limpopo. To Sudan and West Africa.

Body length: 50-53 mm, **Hindwing length:** 38-40 mm

Habitat: Broad, rocky, swift, hot savanna rivers with bushy or open banks.

Behaviour: Patrols swift rivers regularly settling on bushes, sticks or rocks. Hunting swarms wheel around high between trees at dusk.

Flight period: December to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun and Gerhard Diedericks.

Photo: *Kate Braun*



Zygonyx natalensis (**Martin, 1900**)

UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula

Features: Fairly large, medium build, blackish brown with thin, pale blue pruinescence that is usually patchy and scuffed. Cruises up and down, low over rapids and around waterfalls. Common throughout much of South Africa.

Distribution: Common throughout much of South Africa up to 1000 m a.s.l. KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, local in Western Cape Province. To East and West Africa.

Body length: 50-52 mm, **Hindwing length:** 39-40 mm

Habitat: Rocky rivers with water falls, riffles and glides, usually bordered by bushes and trees. Also hawks among bushes and trees away from water.

Behaviour: Hawks rapidly up and down, and hovers, low over riffles and splash zones.

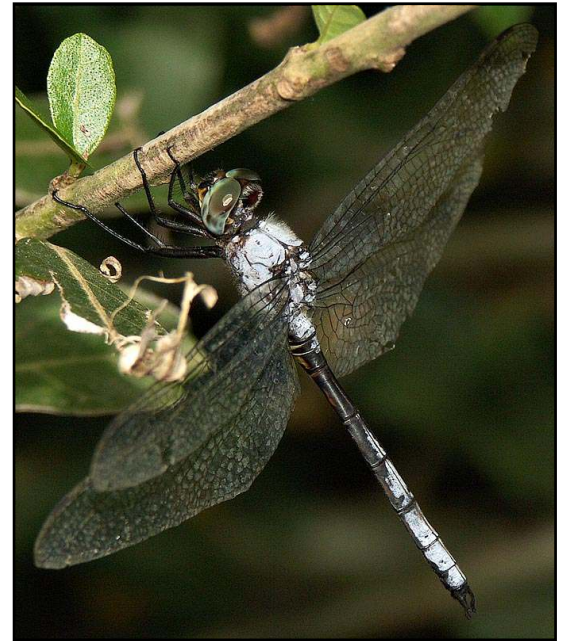
Flight period: September to May but often most abundant October to November

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun.

Photos: *Christopher K Willis*



Blue Cascader



Zygonyx torridus (Kirby, 1889)

SA list, UCT-ADU OdonataMAP

Mlawula

Features: Large, black and yellow ringed. Hawks swiftly up and down over open streams and rivers with riffles. Common throughout warmer areas.

Distribution: Common in KwaZulu Natal up to 800 m a.s.l., Mpumalanga and Limpopo, with occasional Western Cape Province record. North to Spain and India, and Mauritius.

Body length: 53-54 mm, **Hindwing length:** 44-45 mm

Habitat: Riffles of streams and rivers, with bush-lined or open banks.

Behaviour: Hawks up and down over riffles and glides, hovering over open stretches of fast water. May hawk rapidly and high over and between bushes and trees away from water, both in daytime and at dusk. Female rarely close to water, hawks among bushes and trees.

Flight period: November to April

Comments: Occurrence in Eswatini confirmed by photos by Kate Braun.

Photo: J H Wilkinson



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