QUICK GUIDE TO DAMSELFLY & DRAGONFLY FAMILIES

Most useful features for identification:

	Damselfly (pg. 2)	Dragonfly (pg. 3-4)
Head	eye color; eye spots/bars	eye color & shape; color & markings on face (T-spot, line)
Thorax	shape & color of stripes on top & sides	presence, shape, and color of stripes on top & sides
Abdomen	color; markings on top, esp. S2 and S8-S10	color; markings on top & underside; presence of "club" at tip
Wings	color & shape of stigma; orientation when perched	color of wing bases, veins, and stigma; color & shape of wing spots, bands, or patches
Legs	color	color

Forewings & hindwings similar in size & shape, held together over abdomen or no more than partly spread when perched; eyes widely separated (i.e., by the width of the head)

Hindwings broader than forewings; wings held out horizontally when perched; eyes meet at front of head or slightly separated (i.e., by less than the width of the head)

Damselfly



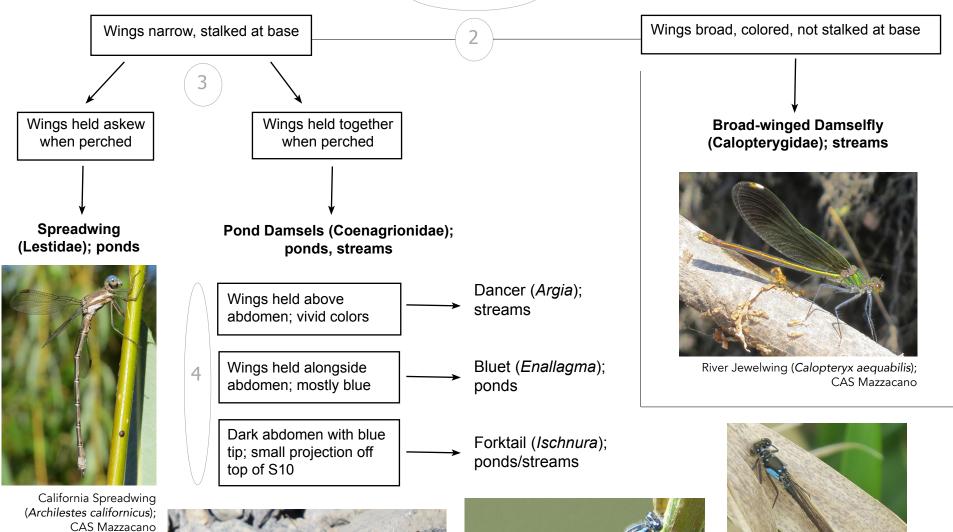
Vivid Dancer (Argia vivida); CAS Mazzacano

Dragonfly



Cardinal Meadowhawk (*Sympetrum illotum*); CAS Mazzacano

DAMSELFLIES







Tule Bluet (Enallagma carunculatum); CAS Mazzacano



Pacific Forktail (*Ischnura* cervula); CAS Mazzacano

DRAGONFLIES

Eyes touch along all or most of inner edges

Eyes separated or touching only at single point on head

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Darners, Skimmers, Emeralds, Cruisers

large; body green or blue; stripes on thorax; eyes touch; perch vertically

→ Darner; streams, ponds

Clubtails, Spiketails, Petaltails (see next page)

wide range of colors; wings often with color or pattern; may be pruinose

Skimmer; ponds

eyes green; thorax hairy, iridescent

Emerald; streams, lakes

large; iridescent blue thorax with yellow stripes

___ Cruiser; streams



Blue-eyed Darner male (Rhionaeshna multicolor); CAS Mazzacano



Western River Cruiser male (*Macromia magnifica*); Jim Johnson/Encyclopedia of Life



American Emerald (Cordulia shurtleffii); CAS Mazzacano



Flame Skimmer male (Libellula saturata); CAS Mazzacano



Clubtails, Spiketails, Petaltais

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eyes separated; terminal segments of abdomen expanded; green & brown or black body eyes touch at single point; large; brown or black & yellow body; lower tip of female abdmen has spike; perches at 45° angle

eyes separated; large; black body with yellow spots on thorax & abdomen

Clubtail*; mostly streams

Spiketail; small streams

Petaltail; bogs, seeps



Bison Snaketail male (Ophiogomphus bison); CAS Mazzacano



Pacific Spiketail male (*Cordulegaster dorsalis*); John Martin/iNaturalist



Black Petaltail (Tanypteryx hageni); CAS Mazzacano

*In 2017, the genus *Gomphus* was re-organized and is no longer recognized as valid in North America. Visit www.OdonataCentral. com and click on Official Checklist to North American Odonata for current genera.

Cordulegaster dorsalis is the only spiketail species known in Oregon.

Tanypteryx hageni is one of only two petaltail species in North America & has a very narrow western range; the Gray Petaltail (Tachopteryx thoreyi) is found in the east.