

Roger's clubtail (*Gomphus rogersi*)

Pennsylvania Invertebrate Species of Concern

State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled) Global Rank: G4 (apparently secure)

What it looks like:

Roger's clubtail, *Gomphus rogersi*, is a dark-colored dragonfly marked with tones of olive, slate, and extensive areas of black. The veins of this species' wings are black, as is the labrum, or upper lip; the frons, or facial plate, is a paler color. The sides of the thorax are also mostly pale. Adults grow to lengths of 47 to 50 millimeters. As with all dragonfly species, Roger's clubtail larvae are aquatic predators. They resemble squat, wingless versions of the adult form, with hooks on their forelegs specialized for burrowing. Roger's clubtail is a member of the subgenus *Gomphurus*, one of three subdivisions of the large and diverse clubtail genus, *Gomphus*.



Gomphus rogersi, Sable Clubtail
Muddy Creek MD, Dave Czaplak

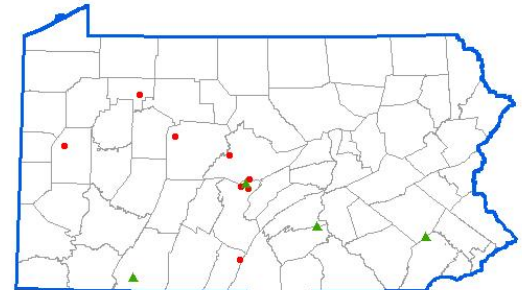
Where it is found:

Roger's clubtail is documented from Vermont south to Alabama and Georgia. Its preferred habitat is along small, rocky streams.

Why it is rare:

Because their life cycle involves both terrestrial and aquatic phases, dragonflies are particularly sensitive to disturbances of stream and lake habitats. Water pollution can harm the larvae; clearing of stream- and lake-shore vegetation deprives the adults of habitat. Though its status is undecided in several states, it is imperiled or critically imperiled in most of the northern half of its range, including Pennsylvania.

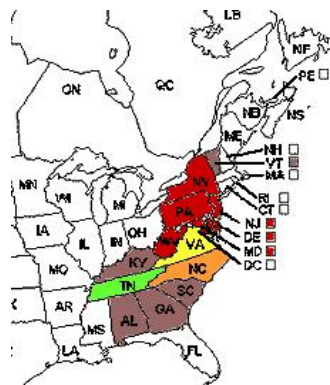
Pennsylvania Distribution by County



▲ current data • records > 30 years old (1975)
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program data 2005

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe



State/Province Status Ranks

■	SX – presumed extirpated
■	SH – possibly extirpated
■	S1 – critically imperiled
■	S2 – imperiled
■	S3 – vulnerable
■	S4 – apparently secure
■	S5 – secure
■	Not ranked/under review

Conservation considerations:

Protection of Roger's clubtail will require preservation and restoration of both the terrestrial streamside habitat of the adult and the aquatic habitat of the larvae. The species can benefit from reduction of fertilizer and pesticide runoff, as well as planting of vegetative buffers along streams.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program



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References

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