

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code: IIO DO12030

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Ophiogomphus arizonicus*

**COMMON NAME:** Arizona snaketail

**SYNONYMS:**

**FAMILY:** Ophiogomphus

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Kennedy, 1917.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Huachuca Mountains, Arizona.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** Unknown

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** There are 21+ species in this genus.

**DESCRIPTION:** A fairly large mostly green dragonfly. The thorax is all green except for reduced black shoulder stripes, and an abdomen striped lengthwise. The larva is flat and brown with an oval abdomen. The *Ophiogomphus arizonicus* is nearly identical to *O. severus*, but the male epiproct is only half length of cerci (3/4 in *O. severus*), and the female has a straight post-ocellar ridge on vertex (strongly undulate in *O. severus*). And the larva has higher dorsal abdominal spines than *O. severus*.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** The *Ophiogomphus arizonicus* is nearly identical to *O. severus*, but the male epiproct is only half length of cerci (3/4 in *O. severus*), and the female has a straight post-ocellar ridge on vertex (strongly undulate in *O. severus*). And the larva has higher dorsal abdominal spines than *O. severus*.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo (Paulson in <http://www.ups.edu/biology/museum/Ophari.jpg>).

**TOTAL RANGE:** Eastern Arizona and westernmost New Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Eastern Arizona.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:**

**REPRODUCTION:** The adult males perch on rocks near stream pools to wait for females. The females perch on a rock until they accumulate a ball of eggs then fly out to deposit them in water. The larvae overwinter and the flight season is from early June to early September.

**FOOD HABITS:** They are invertivores as adults and immatures.

**HABITAT:** They are found in fairly swift rocky mountain streams in pine woodland with silt for larval habitat.

**ELEVATION:** Unknown

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Unknown

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:**

**STATE STATUS:**

**OTHER STATUS:**

Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3  
1999)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** The major threats to this population are lumbering, overgrazing and fires that destabilize stream flow. The larvae are susceptible degradation of water flow and alterations of stream flow.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** Unknown

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Unknown

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Unknown

### **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

**REFERENCES:**

[Http://www.ups.edu/biology/museum/53ophari.gif](http://www.ups.edu/biology/museum/53ophari.gif).

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available:<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 6, 2002).

Paulson, D. Available at <http://www.ups.edu/biology/museum/Ophari.jpg>.

USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 2002-06-21 (AMS)

To the user of these abstracts: you may use the entire abstract or any part of it. We do request, however, that if you make use of these abstracts in plans, reports, publications, etc. that you credit the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Please use the following citation:

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 20XX (= **year of last revision as indicated at end of abstract**). X...X (= **taxon of animal or plant**). Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ. X pp.