

# Dragonflies of Ireland

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Dragonflies and damselflies are charismatic insects, easily recognised by their large size and dazzling body colours. This makes them a good target for biological recording. 33 dragonfly and damselfly species have been recorded in Ireland, with 25 of these considered resident. Dragonflies are larger, more robust looking, and have eyes that are large and close together, whereas damselflies have longer, slender looking bodies with eyes widely separated. Male dragonflies and damselflies are generally easier to identify and are often to be found nearer the waters edge.



Hairy Dragonfly  
*Brachytron pratense*



Common Hawker  
*Aeshna juncea*



Brown Hawker  
*Aeshna grandis*



Beautiful Demoiselle  
*Calopteryx virgo*



Emperor Dragonfly  
*Anax imperator*



Black-tailed Skimmer  
*Orthetrum cancellatum*



Downy Emerald  
*Cordulia aenea*



Northern Emerald  
*Somatochlora arctica*



Four-spotted Chaser  
*Libellula quadrimaculata*



Keel Skimmer  
*Orthetrum coerulescens*



Common Darter  
*Sympetrum striolatum*



Migrant Hawker  
*Aeshna mixta*



Golden-ringed Dragonfly  
*Cordulegaster boltonii*



Ruddy Darter  
*Sympetrum sanguineum*



Black Darter  
*Sympetrum danae*



Banded Demoiselle  
*Calopteryx splendens*



Emerald Damselfly  
*Lestes sponsa*



Scarce Emerald Damselfly  
*Lestes dryas*



Large Red Damselfly  
*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*



Blue-tailed Damselfly  
*Ischnura elegans*



Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly  
*Ischnura pumilio*



Common Blue Damselfly  
*Enallagma cyathigerum*



Variable Damselfly  
*Coenagrion pulchellum*



Azure Damselfly  
*Coenagrion puella*



Irish Damselfly  
*Coenagrion lunulatum*

