

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.

Dragonfly
Ireland 2019-2024

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An tAidmhearcacht um Chomhairleacht



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



Keeled 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