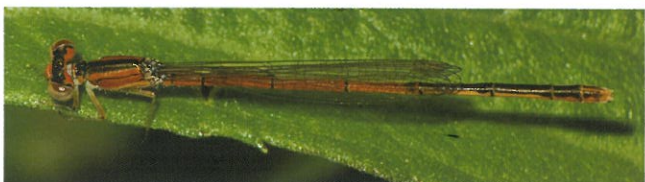


Description Tiny mostly yellow damselfly, unique in male forewing stigmas not at wing edge. *Male*: Eyes yellow in front, green behind, with large black cap. Thorax striped green and black, with narrow antehumeral and wide humeral stripe. Abdomen yellow, green at extreme base; S1–2 black above, S3–6 with black basal spearpoint and apical ring, may be joined on S6; S7–10 all yellow or, at lower latitudes, S7 mostly black. Forewing stigmas orange, removed from wing margin behind thickened white vein; hindwing stigmas normal, black. *Female*: Eyes dull greenish with brown cap, prominently banded with black. Thorax black in front, gray on upper sides, white on lower sides. Abdomen black above, eventually becoming pruinose gray, often faintly banded with darker gray. Immature with face, postocular spots, pale areas on thorax and abdomen orange (extending to S5 or further). During maturation, S6–8 and parts of S5 and S9 become black above, then entire abdomen. Thorax gradually becomes greenish, abdomen increasingly pruinose at maturity.



Identification Yellow males unmistakable. Orange immature females differ from immature **Eastern Forktail** by lacking conspicuous dark humeral stripe, from **Furtive** and **Rambur's** by smaller size, more orange at abdomen base (only S1–2 in **Rambur's**, S3–4 in **Furtive**) and broader median stripe than in **Furtive**. Mature females in wetter areas more likely to be dull blackish, in drier regions can be quite pale gray pruinose. In either case, very similar to mature females of other pruinose species, **Eastern** and **Fragile Forktails**, but distinguished by shiny black median stripe on front of thorax (pruinosity obscures stripe in other species) with no trace of distinct humeral stripe (sometimes obvious in other species). Although considerably smaller, at one stage of development female **Citrine** with dull orange-olive thorax could look much like mature heteromorph **Rambur's**. **Rambur's** never becomes pruinose on abdomen and often has bright blue postocular spots.

Natural History Both sexes can be found at very high densities in appropriate habitat, sometimes both matures and immatures rising in clouds when disturbed from dense veg-



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Citrine Forktail
male—Decatur
Co., GA, July 2007;
immature
female—Floyd
Co., GA, May 2006;
female—Orange
Co., FL, April 2008

etation at shallow grassy or sedgy ponds. Mating seldom seen, probably because most females mate only once, then use sperm of that male to fertilize all eggs they lay. Copulation throughout day, with both immature and mature females, may last until after dark. Oviposition much less often seen than in other forktails; solo females insert eggs methodically into upright and floating stems and leaves, including grasses, water lilies, and sphagnum.

Habitat Ponds and lake margins densely vegetated with grasses and/or sedges, also temporary ponds with similar vegetation, at least in southern part of range. Common in sphagnum bogs in some areas. Good disperser, taken by winds far above ground, so may turn up in inappropriate habitats.

Flight Season ON Jul–Sep, NS Aug, IA Jun–Sep, ME Aug, OH May–Nov, NJ Apr–Oct, KY May–Oct, LA Feb–Nov, GA Feb–Jan, FL all year.

Comments Population in Azores parthenogenetic, lacking males. Females lay eggs that give rise to females. No other odonate known to practice this method of reproduction.

Distribution Through Southwest west to southern California and south in lowlands to Venezuela; isolated populations on Galapagos (only damselfly there) and Azores. At times numbers appear north of usual range, perhaps colonies that wax and wane with climatic conditions.

Red Damsels *Amphiagrion*

This distinctive genus, with one variable or two closely related species, is confined to North America; its nearest relatives are not obvious. Males are bright red, often with much black, females duller. Thorax bulky and quite hairy, with a hairy tubercle (bump) beneath it exaggerated in western populations. World 2, NA 2, East 1.

66 Eastern Red Damsel *Amphiagrion saucium*

TL 22–27, HW 14–17

Description Small, slender red or orange damselfly of dense vegetation. *Male*: Eyes reddish-brown, paler below, with horizontal stripes; head black, with no postocular spots. Thorax black in front, reddish on sides, line of demarcation between them irregular; entirely black in northwestern part of region. Abdomen bright red, variably marked at tip with black. Amount of black varies from almost none to paired black blotches on S7–10, sometimes S6. Markings take up increasing part of segment toward rear. Legs red in much of range, black in northwestern part. *Female*: Eyes light brown, faintly striped; head lightly marked with black. Thorax dull orange. Abdomen red-orange, variation in black markings at abdomen tip much as in male.



Identification No other small red damselfly normally occurs with it. No other female damselflies in range plain unmarked reddish-brown, including abdomen. Might barely overlap with **Duckweed Firetail** on Atlantic coast. Males of latter species have much red on head, narrower black on front of thorax, and no black on abdomen. Female **Firetail** dull brown, darker on top of thorax and abdomen. **Firetail** typically in swamps with duckweed, **Red Damsel** in bogs or sedge marshes. Note some heteromorph female **FORFKTAILS** with much orange on thorax and abdomen, but not red like male **Red Damsel** and with more black on abdomen than female **Red Damsel**.

Natural History Both sexes common in dense vegetation near and at breeding habitat. Perch on sedge or grass stems, not flat leaves. Oviposition in tandem on floating vegetation and debris.

Habitat Sedge-filled marshes, seeps from streams, acid bogs.

Flight Season ON May–Aug, QC Jun–Aug, NS May–Aug, IA May–Aug, WI May–Aug, ME May–Jul, OH May–Aug, NJ May–Aug, KY May–Sep, GA Apr–Jun.