

Description Largest blue bluet in region, most common on large lakes and in coastal region. Postocular spots form very narrow transverse line. *Male*: Eyes blue with small black cap. Thorax typical of blue bluets but dorsal carina usually blue, bisecting wide black median stripe. Abdomen blue, with black markings a large apical spot on S2, apical spots (almost rings) on S3–6 narrowly pointed toward front, top of S7 except narrow basal ring, and top of S10. *Female*: Polymorphic, brown or blue. Eyes tan, darker above. Thorax as male, also with pale line dividing median stripe. Abdomen entirely black above with usual torpedo pattern on S3–7.



Identification Typical individuals larger than other bluets, distinctive because dark markings of middle abdominal segments more drawn out in long point toward front than in **Atlantic** and **Familiar**, only other largish mostly blue bluets in range and habitat (very little overlap with **Boreal**, **Northern**, and **Vernal** farther inland). Small percentage of individuals smaller and some with less black on abdomen, so capture and scrutiny of appendages in side view may be necessary for certainty. **Familiar** easily distinguished by long cerci equaling S10 in length (barely visible in **Big**). Female resembles females of numerous other bluets, perhaps separable by size and pale median carina of thorax. Otherwise, mesostigmal plates must be examined in hand. In **Big**, gap between plates narrower than plates; in **Atlantic** and **Familiar**, about the same width.

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Big Bluet male,
female—Wakulla
Co., FL, July 2009



Natural History Males perch on grass and sedge in beds of same. Females oviposit under water, head down, while male guards above. Regularly takes other damselflies as prey.

Habitat Large sandy lakes and lower reaches of rivers, even extending into brackish estuaries. Occurs all across Florida Peninsula. Only common bluet at some large water bodies near coast.

Flight Season ME Jul–Aug, NJ May–Nov, LA Apr–Oct, FL Feb–Dec.

Distribution South on Gulf Coast of Mexico to Tamaulipas.