

# Eastern Least Clubtail





Eastern Least Clubtail (*Stylogomphus albistylus*) – 1.5", 31-36 mm

Habitat Conservation Alert!

**Flight Record:**  
(5/25-7/27)  
Peaks  
mid-June  
thru July

Uncommon

**Habitat:**  
Clean,  
rocky,  
shallow,  
sunny  
streams

**First Glance:**  
Small, thin -  
easily  
mistaken  
for a  
damselfly.  
Dark body  
with light  
rings &  
white tip  
(cerci).  
Perches  
often on  
rocks in the  
middle of  
streams.

**Compare:**  
Sable  
Clubtail





### Notes from the field – Eastern Least Clubtail:

This small, thin dragonfly is easily overlooked, or mistaken for a damselfly. The dark coloring, slight build and small, clear wings require sharp eyes to spot. When flying over a stream they basically become invisible. You're best chance at finding this species is to look for them when they're perched, usually mid-stream on an exposed rock. They prefer shallow, sunny, rocky creeks and streams with plenty of riffles and a decent flow. It seems to be all about the rocks with these dragonflies; rocky substrate, rocky riffles and lots of exposed, sunny rocks for displaying males.

Those pale rings, and especially their pale cerci, really do stand out once you've got the search image down. Gutsy little dragonflies, displaying males can often be approached quite close, depending on how attached they are to their rock. The photo on the title page was taken from less than two feet away. The little guy turned to face me and my dragonfly buddy, Tony, and refused to leave what he clearly considered prime real-estate. For male dragonflies, it's all about staking out territory they think will attract the ladies, and he was sure he'd found pretty good chic bait.

There's a noticeable emergence of teneral along stream banks in late May - look for them at Goose Creek, Bull Run, Popes Head and streams in Reston.

