

LA-UR-17-24986

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Title: Photographic Documentation of Emerald Spreadwing at TA-3, LANL

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Intended for: Report
Web

Issued: 2017-06-20

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Photographic Documentation of Emerald Spreadwing at TA-3, LANL

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Los Alamos National Laboratory has a considerable amount of suitable habitat for odonates, or dragonflies and damselflies. Few of these have been properly documented, however. With photographic documentation, the quality and size of odonate habitat on land owned by the Department of Energy will become more apparent to land managers.

I observed an Emerald Spreadwing (a species of damselfly) at TA-3 at LANL on 9 June 2017. The location and its significance, pictured in Fig. 1, were described in a previous report [3]. The species is comparatively easy to identify using information in the book by Paulson [1]. Figures 2-10 show photographs obtained that day. Emerald Spreadwing (*Lestes dryas*) has a bright green and fairly thick abdomen. Like other spreadwings, it has a tendency to hold its wings at about a 45-degree angle from the abdomen when perched, as in Fig. 2. According to an online database [2], there are no previously documented instances of Emerald Spreadwing in Los Alamos County, NM. Therefore these photographs are of considerable interest. Higher quality photographs for direct comparison are available at the Arizona Dragonflies website [4].



Fig. 1. Aerial photograph of the location in TA-3, LANL. The pool location is indicated by the red arrow. Image from Google Maps.



Fig. 2. Photograph showing wings in spread position.



Fig. 3. Photograph showing pattern on side of thorax.



Fig. 4. Photograph showing thorax pattern.



Fig. 5. Photograph showing top of thorax and green color of abdomen.



Fig. 6. Photograph showing wings closed around abdomen.



Fig. 7. Photograph showing details of head and thorax.



Fig. 8. Photograph showing top of thorax.

Fig. 9. Photograph showing thorax in direct sunlight.



Fig. 10. Details of appendages.

Acknowledgements

I thank Jim Stuart of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for information on odonate distribution in New Mexico.

References

1. Dennis Paulson, *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West*, Princeton Field Guides, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2009.
2. Abbott, J.C. 2006-2016. OdonataCentral: An online resource for the distribution and identification of Odonata. Website available at <http://www.odonatacentral.org>. (Accessed: June 2017).
3. B.R. Foy and C.D. Hathcock, "Three Species of odonata Observed at TA-3 in September 2015," Los Alamos Report LA-UR-16-22545, 2016.
4. "Arizona Dragonflies," website located at <http://azdragonfly.org/species/emerald-spreadwing>