



Tiger Spiketail

Cordulegaster erronea

FAMILY: SPIKETAIL

ABOUT

Tiger Spiketail is an extreme habitat specialist. It is only found in tiny streams, called seep streams, trickling down from hillside springs. Most people are surprised that these large colorful dragonflies live on such tiny streams. These stunning insects are named for the bold black and yellow stripes. Because their habitat is rare, Tiger Spiketail is one of our rarest, most localized dragonflies and is known from only six streams in Delaware. This habitat is also extremely fragile and Tiger Spiketails do not tolerate disturbance to their small streams. They are one of the species most in need of our protection. They are usually seen in late summer.

LEARN MORE

<https://tinyurl.com/TigerSpiketail>

- Flyer
- Threatened
- Breeds on tiny seep streams in the forest -- very fragile habitat
- Only known from about 6 sites in the Delaware piedmont and recently from Lum's Pond

MALES VS FEMALES

Males and females look alike. Males are seen constantly flying low up and down tiny streams.

LAYING EGGS

Females lay eggs by hovering vertically over shallow water and plunging the tip of their abdomen into the mud in a sewing-machine like movement.

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

Tiger Spiketail larvae feed on smaller aquatic invertebrates and adults feed on insects which they capture in flight.