

## State Dragonfly

The calico pennant—the *celithemis elisa*—should be Delaware’s state dragonfly because of its overall contribution and stunning appearance. Some might argue that the blue dasher should be the state’s dragonfly because of its multitude around the state, but I disagree. The state dragonfly of Delaware can be found nearby swamps and marshes, though it perches on tops of reeds and weeds, managing to stay on even despite strong wind gusts.

The calico pennant dragonfly accidentally pollinates, taking a bit of pollen with it when it goes from plant to plant. This pollination helps fertilize many plants and contributes to their crucial growth and nutrition. The calico pennant is a great way to help out the plants of our state, so we should recognize it for its helpful ability. The calico pennant also hunts near areas with unhelpful insects, like mosquitoes. This dragonfly hunts these harmful and unnecessary insects, helping the area and ecosystem nearby. Third, the calico pennant isn’t even dangerous to humans. It isn’t able to sting us or hurt us in any way, so really, there’s no downside to this insect.

Additionally, the calico pennant dragonfly is well known for its heart shaped markings that can be found on their wings. This is a unique and beautiful feature that this dragonfly has. Besides its warm and autumn colors, the calico pennant dragonfly has a distinctive appearance and beauty that is unmatched with any other nominee for Delaware’s state dragonfly. The calico pennant dragonfly is identified by their brown spots located at the bases and the tips of their

wings. They also have a pterostigma, which is yellow in the younger and red in the older. The calico pennant consists of many unique traits and characteristics, signifying their beauty. This would be a great dragonfly to represent Delaware.

#### Works Cited:

*Calico pennant (CELITHEMIS ELISA)*. iNaturalist. (2023).

<https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/63160-Celithemis-elisa>

*DelawareMuseumofNatureScience*. “*Help name the Delaware State Dragonfly!*” YouTube, March 7, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UxBYGo3nYM&t=1136s>.

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