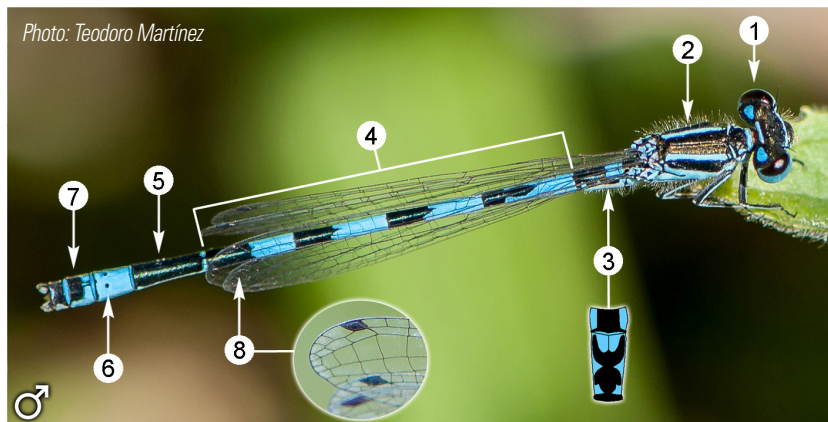




Coenagrion mercuriale

Photo: Teodoro Martínez



Length: From 27 to 31 mm. Hindwing span: From 19 to 27 mm.

Male: **1.** The upper part of the eyes is black with two blue spots. **2.** Blue thorax with black stripes on the sides, back and with lines between sutures from the base of the wings (the upper shorter than the lower). **3.** Black marking in the shape of a helmet with horns on S2. **4.** From S3 to S4 there is more blue than black colour. **5.** S7 is completely black. **6.** S8 is blue with two black dots. **7.** S9 is blue and black. **8.** Pterostigma is dark and in the shape of a diamond. **Female:** They can be blue or greeny with dark dorsal abdomen (**9**). It is very difficult to make a difference between this and other similar species if you do not have it in the hand. The pronotum is straight at the back and has a small lump in the centre (**10**).

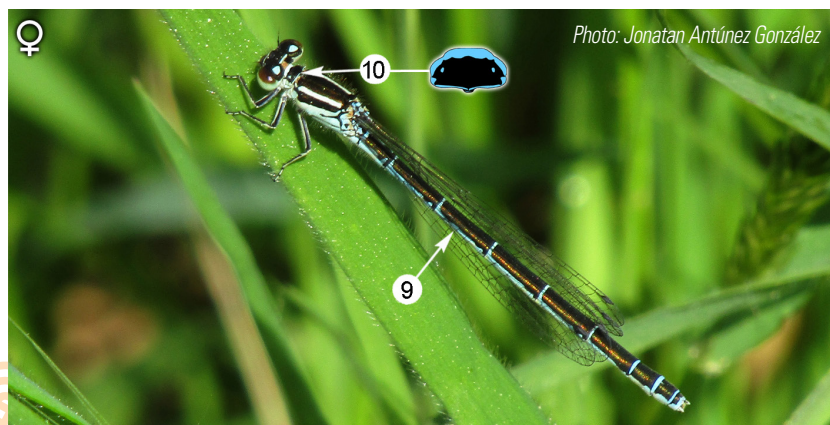


Photo: Jonatan Antúñez González



HABITAT

They usually mate in streams with clean low slow-flowing water bodies with lush aquatic and shore plant life, such as watercress, reeds, bulrushes and rushes. They are also seen in canals and irrigation channels. They can live in salty water.

WAY OF LIFE

It is hardly noticeable and difficult to find. It flies low, close to the water and rests on the emergent or shore plants.

WHEN TO SEE THIS SPECIES

In the Province of Málaga, it can be seen from April or September.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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WHERE TO SEE THIS SPECIES

It is rather rare and confined to certain places in the province. It has only been spotted in Almargen and some streams in Archidona, close to stage 13 on the Great Málaga Path.

It can be present in some other routes, mainly in the north of the province, from stage 12 to 19.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Genus *Enallagma*, *Erythromma* and *Coenagrion*.

CONSERVATION STATUS

It is considered to be Vulnerable in the Atlas and Red List Status of Invertebrates in Spain (Atlas y Libro Rojo de las Invertebrados de España, 2011) and the Red List Status of Invertebrates in Andalusia (Libro Rojo de los Invertebrados de Andalucía. 2008). As for legislation, it is part of the List of Protected Wild Species in Spain and Andalusia (Real Decreto / Royal Decree 139/2011 and Decree 23/2012, respectively).