

Endangered Species and Spaces

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7.1 Vivid Dancer: *Argia vivida*

Order: Odonata - Dragonflies and Damselflies

Family: Coenagrionidae - Narrow-winged Damselflies

Status

Global: G5

Provincial: S2

COSEWIC: not addressed

Provincial List: **Red**

Distinguishing Features

The Vivid Dancer belongs to the family of narrow-winged damselflies. It is a very intense blue colour with clear wings that are very narrow at their base. Wings are usually held vertically when at rest. They are 28 - 43 mm long.

Distribution

Columbia Basin: The Vivid Dancer has only been recorded from a few locations in the Columbia Basin such as Fairmont Hot Springs, Field, Meager Creek Hot Springs, Nakusp Hot Springs, Albert Canyon and in Glacier National Park.

British Columbia: All but two of the known locations in British Columbia are associated with creeks and ponds surrounding hot springs. Outside the Columbia Basin, the only known sites are a cool spring near Madeline Lake west of Penticton and spring-fed stream near Okanagan Falls.

North America: Ranges from southwestern Alberta and southeastern British Columbia south to California, Texas and Mexico.

Habitat:

Found only in very localised pools near hot springs or spring-fed streams. It is associated with hot springs at Banff and Fairmont, and with cold springs at Field and Glacier. Specimens were found in Albert Canyon, but not in Glacier during 1998 field surveys (Cannings, pers. Com.).

Threats

Invertebrates such as the Vivid Dancer are not threatened by direct exploitation, so much as by habitat loss or degradation. Most accessible hot springs in Alberta and B.C. have already undergone extensive modification and diversion into swimming pools, and unique flora and fauna have been lost. Heavy grazing of grasslands and livestock trampling around the edges of cold springs is another significant threat.

Biology

Vivid Dancers lay eggs in aquatic vegetation or wet wood, often submerging for periods up to a half-hour or more. Males protect females from other males by retaining their mating hold of the female's thorax and standing stiffly at attention. Larvae are usually found in running water. The aquatic larvae cling to the undersides of stones and roots in the small streams and muddy pools. The adults rest on stones or bare earth nearby, and make short foraging flights after small insect prey. They are alert, seldom resting in one place and dodge into vegetation when alarmed.



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