



Common Dragonflies of Singapore



There are 133 species of dragonflies* in Singapore. Here are a few common species which can be found in urban areas.

**For simplicity, we are using the broad term of 'dragonfly' here to refer to both dragonflies and damselflies.*

Crimson Dropwing (*Trithemis aurora*)



Male



Female

Like other dragonfly species, Crimson Dropwing males often perch with their wings pressed downwards. To regulate their body temperature under the hot sun, they raise their abdomen upwards in an obelisk posture.

Common Parasol (*Neurothemis fluctuans*)



Male



Female

Common Parasols are Singapore's most common dragonflies. They are not easily startled, even when approached from as close as 30 cm away.

Common Bluetail (*Ischnura senegalensis*)



Male



Female

Common Bluetail females exhibit polymorphism, which means they appear in various forms, such as in olive or golden orange.

Blue Sprite (*Pseudagrion microcephalum*)



Male



Female

Blue Sprites prefer disturbed wetland habitats, including places with little plant growth (e.g. drains).

Common Scarlet (*Crocothemis servilia*)



Male



Female

Common Scarlets are sun-loving dragonflies. Males perch atop aquatic plants, chasing away other dragonflies that approach their territory. They then return to the same perching spots.

Blue Dasher (*Brachydiplax chalybea*)



Male



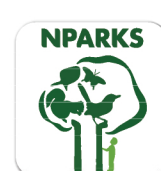
Female

Blue Dasher females lay eggs by dipping the tip of their abdomen into water and flicking moistened egg masses onto rocks or vegetation just above the water surface.

Dragonfly Watching Tips

- The best time for dragonfly watching is from 9 am to 5 pm.
- Keep a distance from the dragonflies to avoid spooking them.
- Watch your step near water bodies.

Visit www.nparks.gov.sg/cin to learn how you can play a part in conserving our natural heritage.



Use the SGBioAtlas app to help you identify common species. The app is available for Apple devices (iPhone and iPad) on the App Store, and Android devices on the Google Play Store.

Photo credits: Nicole Lee (Blue Sprite, male), Goh Pei Shuan (Blue Sprite, female), Robin Ngiam (all others)



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