

# Halloween pennant

## *Celithemis eponina*

### FEATURES

The Halloween pennant is a medium-sized dragonfly and the largest of the *Celithemis* genus. It has an orange to yellow face, a dorsal stripe on the abdomen, and golden to orange wings with dark spots and orange veins. They are sexually dimorphic (different characteristics between sexes). Females have a brown abdomen at the base of the thorax, yellow sides, and a yellow dorsal stripe. Males have a mostly black abdomen that is orange at the base of the thorax. They are easily mistaken for the calico pennant (*Celithemis elisa*), which has clear wings with smaller wing spots. Larvae are greenish to pale brown, have a longer, slender build, and large eyes.

### BEHAVIORS

Dragonflies are common inhabitants of lakes and wetlands, and nymphs live underwater among submerged vegetation. The Halloween pennant almost exclusively mates in the morning hours. They mate like most dragonflies, the male grabbing onto the female and bending his abdomen towards hers. After copulation, females hold onto abdomen of males as they deposit the eggs underwater. Their strong wings allow them to withstand windy and rainy summer days. They can be seen near lakes and wetlands during summer months (especially July) statewide.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Arthropoda  
Class: Insecta  
Order: Odonata  
Family: Libellulidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE



© Mary Kay Rubey

female



© Mary Kay Rubey

male



## **Aquatic Habitats**

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; marshes; rivers and streams; swamps;  
temporary water supplies; wet prairies and fens

## **Woodland Habitats**

none

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

edge