

# Stygian shadowdragon

## *Neurocordulia yamaskanensis*

### FEATURES

The stygian shadowdragon has a mostly brown body with a light face and large, brown eyes. They have broad wings with black veins and an orange spot at the base of each. The thorax is dark on front, lighter on the sides, and has a white line down the back. The abdomen is darker brown with a light-yellow stripe around each segment and lighter spots along the sides. The yellow spot near the legs on the sides of the thorax differentiates them from their look-alikes, of which there are several. Baskettails (*Epithecina*) have a different pattern on the thorax, sundragons (*Helocordulia*) are black bodied instead of brown, and while spotted darners (*Boyeria*) are seen at similar times of day, they have two big yellow spots along each side.

### BEHAVIORS

The stygian shadowdragon is found in southern Illinois near the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from June to July. They hang out in trees during the day and show up near large rivers about half an hour before sunset to feed and mate, flying fast and erratically. Large eyes and wide wings are characteristics of dragonflies active at night.

### TAXONOMY

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

### ILLINOIS STATUS

rare, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE





**Aquatic Habitats**

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

**Woodland Habitats**

none

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none