

Erpetogomphus heterodon (Dashed Ringtail)



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Taxonomy

- **Class:** INSECTA
- **Order:** ODONATA
- **Family:** GOMPHIDAE
- **Genus:** Erpetogomphus
- **Scientific Name:** *Erpetogomphus heterodon*
Garrison, 1994
- **Common Name:** Dashed Ringtail
- **Synonyms:**
- **Taxonomic Name Source:**

Agency Status

- **NMDGF:**
- **Federal Status:**
- **BLM Sensitive:**
- **USFS:**
- **IUCN Red List:** [Least Concern](#)
- **Nature Serve Global:** [G3](#)
- **NHNM State:** S2
- **NM Endemic:** NO

Description

The Dashed Ringtail is a medium-sized dragonfly. The head and thorax are mostly light green, with some brownish markings. The abdomen is black and white patterned, ending in a club that is patterned black and yellowish brown.

Habitat and Ecology

The Dashed Ringtail occurs in shallow, rocky montane streams, often in arid pine-oak woodlands. It is usually found where there is a band of shrubs along the bank of the stream (Abbott and Paulson 2017).

Geographic Range:

This species has been recorded in southeastern New Mexico, where it is known from two rivers in the Gila Wilderness, west Texas, where it has been recorded in two streams, and Chihuahua, Mexico, where it is known from four streams (Abbott and Paulson 2017, NatureServe 2024). This species is under surveyed, so it may be found in additional occurrences.

Conservation Considerations:

There are no conservation actions in place for this species. While it occurs in several protected areas, such as the Davis Mountains and Balmorhea State Parks in Texas, and the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico, very little is known about the species. Therefore, research is needed to better understand the current distribution and status.

Threats:

Threats to the watersheds where this species is found include overgrazing by cattle and forest fires (Dunkle 2004). These threats may destabilize the stream flow or adversely impact water quality (NatureServe 2024).

Population:

This species is not monitored closely, so the population size and trend are not known (Abbott and Paulson 2017).

References:

- [Abbott, J.C. and Paulson, D.R.. 2017. *Erpetogomphus heterodon*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2017*: e.T59727A80694574 . https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-3.RLTS.T59727A80694574.en. Accessed on 06 November 2024](https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2017-3.RLTS.T59727A80694574.en)
- Dunkle, S.W.. 2004. Critical species of Odonata in North America. *International Journal of Odonatology*7: (149-162).
- [NatureServe. 2024. NatureServe Explorer: *Erpetogomphus heterodon*. NatureServe. https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.119429/Erpetogomphus_heterodon . Accessed on 11/6/2024](https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.119429/Erpetogomphus_heterodon)

More Information

