



Anax ephippiger

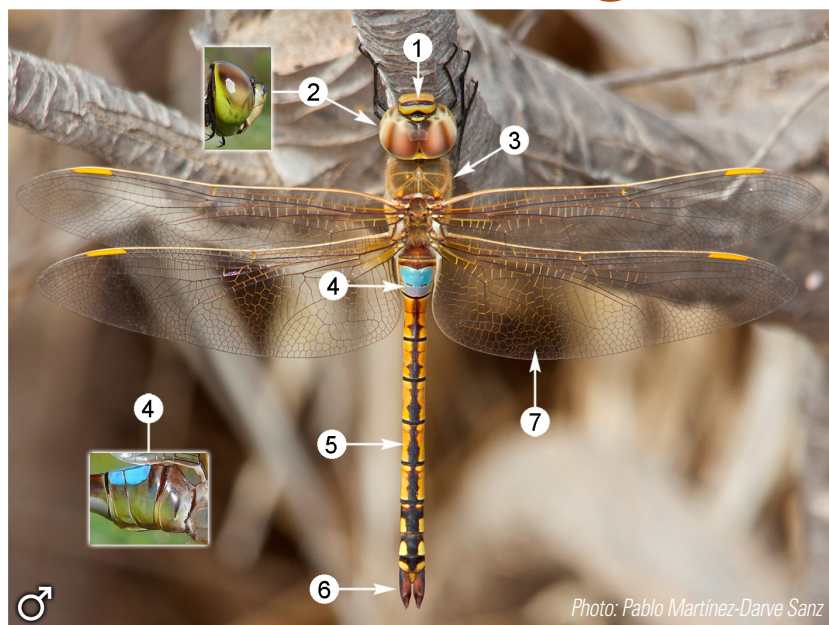


Photo: Pablo Martínez-Darve Sanz

Length: From 61 to 70 mm. Hindwing span: From 43 to 48 mm.

Male: **1.** Two black bold lines on the frons. **2.** The upper part of the eyes is brown and the lower green. **3.** Brown thorax. **4.** Only the upper part of the S2 is blue, and this colour spreads up to the middle of the sides. **5.** Abdomen is light brown or yellowish with a black stripe that stretches across it. **6.** Long pointed anal appendages. **7.** There is a yellow spot on the hindwing. **Female:** They are similar to males in patterns, but S2 is normally duller and the blue colour on S2 is not as bright or it does not exist. There is a black stripe that goes across the abdomen. **(8)**



Photo: Roberto Scherini



HABITAT

It can be found in all kinds of habitats, whether they are bodies of water or not, as this is a migratory species. It is unknown if there is a breeding spot this species has in the Province of Málaga, but they are likely to mate in standing water bodies with plenty of vegetation on the riverbank (above all rushes and bulrushes). These can be perennial or temporary, such as small reservoirs and dams, artificial ponds, deserted quarries and pools in rivers and streams.

WAY OF LIFE

This species migrates from Africa and the Mediterranean to a large part of Europe, where it reaches Iceland (only this Odonata from that country has been seen here). The same as other dragonflies from this genus, they fly throughout the year and almost all day long without resting. When at rest, their position is vertical, as they normally hang on marshy plants or trees and bushes. The female lay eggs in tandem with the male.

WHEN TO SEE THIS SPECIES

In Málaga, it appears every month, though it is the most common in March, after emerging, and in September, when it comes back to the place where it was bred.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

WHERE TO SEE THIS SPECIES

As a migratory species, it can be seen at any spot in the province, although it is more likely to be found close to the coast. It has been seen on the following stages of the Great Málaga Path: 2, 5, 18, 19, 32, 33, 34 and 35.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Above all *Anax parthenope*.

CONSERVATION STATUS

The species is not endangered nor protected by the current environmental law.