

Ebony jewelwing

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The **ebony jewelwing** (*Calopteryx maculata*) is a species of broad-winged damselfly. It is one out of the 170 species of the Odonata found in New England, the Mid-Atlantic states, and southeastern Canada.

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Description

It is between 39–57 mm (1.5–2.2 in). The male has a metallic blue-green body and black wings. The female is duller brown with smoky wings that have white spots near the tips. The naiad is pale brown with darker markings.^[1]

Habitat

It lives near wooded streams and rivers, but it can move far from water.^[2]

Breeding

Ebony jewelwings mate in the summer. The male holds the female behind her head with his tail or abdomen. The female lays eggs in the soft stems of aquatic plants. The naiad eats small aquatic insects. When the naiad is fully grown, it crawls out of the water and molts.^[3]

Flight season

This damselfly species can be seen almost year-round in some regions.^[4]

Ecology

Prey of this species includes^[3] the tiger mosquito, giant willow aphid, fungus gnats, crane flies, large diving beetles, eastern dobsonfly, water fleas, green darner, aquatic oligochaetes, caddisflies, rotifers, copepods, amphipods, dogwood borer, six-spotted tiger beetle, freshwater triclads, and green hydra.

Ebony jewelwing



male



female

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Odonata
Suborder:	Zygoptera
Family:	Calopterygidae
Genus:	<i>Calopteryx</i>
Species:	<i>C. maculata</i>

Binomial name

Calopteryx maculata

(Beauvois, 1805)

Predators of this damselfly include^[3] birds such as the great crested flycatcher, American robin, mallard, red-winged blackbird, and blue jay, reptiles and amphibians such as the eastern painted turtle, common snapping turtle, and southern leopard frog, fish such as the bluegill, largemouth bass, yellow perch, creek chub, channel catfish, common carp, and northern hogsucker, mammals such as the big brown bat, and insects such as the green darner, large diving beetles, eastern dobsonfly, and common water strider.

The damselfly shelters among various plants and algae in its habitat, including^[3] green algae, yellow water lily, hydrilla, lizard's tail, pickerelweed, common cattail, upright sedge, common bladderwort, common duckweed, black willow, orange jewelweed, spotted Joe-pye weed, poison ivy, wild grape, sassafras, common greenbrier, and buttonbush.

References

- Lam, Ed. (2004) *Damselflies of the Northeast*. Forest Hills, NY: Biodiversity Press, p.20.
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Categories: Calopterygidae | Odonata of North America
| Insects described in 1805



Calopteryx maculata on Palmetto leaf at Francis Beidler Forest



Mating



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