

Emperor Dragonfly

Species Description

Scientific name: *Anax imperator*

The Emperor Dragonfly is a very large, impressive dragonfly that is on the wing from June to August. It is a common species of large ponds and lakes, as well as canals and ditches, but is rarely found away from water. The female lays her eggs in floating pondweed. One of the largest dragonfly species in Europe, the Emperor Dragonfly flies up high to look for insect-prey, such as butterflies and chaser dragonflies. It catches its prey in mid-air and may eat it on the wing.

This species is common in the UK.



Key ID features

Green-blue eyes

Apple green thorax

Black stripe running full length of abdomen

Male is pale blue,
female is duller green-blue

