

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: (Left & Right) David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Ebony Jewelwing

Scientific Name: *Calopteryx maculata*

Order and Family: Odonata, Calopterygidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		The eggs are cylindrical in shape. The eggs are laid in slow moving rivers and streams.
Larva/Nymph		The aquatic naiad is olive green to brown in color and wingless, with three pairs of legs. Like other damselfly naiad species, they contain three caudal gills that project from the base of the abdomen. Similar to the adults, they have a prehensile lower lip (labium) that extends out to capture prey.
Adult	Length 39-57 mm Wingspan: 58-76 mm	The adult male ebony jewelwing is the only black-winged damselfly. The male's body is a dark metallic green which can appear blue or black in the light. The female looks like the male but is duller in color, has browner wings. The thickened, opaque spot near the tip of the forewings (pterostigma) are white in the female. The wings at the base gradually narrow instead of being stalked like in other families of damselflies. The wings of both male and female are held together above the body or are somewhat divergent.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Both adults and naiads have chewing mouthparts.

Host/s: The aquatic naiads feed on aquatic insects, worms, and small fish. The adults feed on resting arthropods but are also known to catch prey during midflight, which includes gnats, mosquitoes, and crane flies.

Description of Benefits (Pollinator, parasitoid, predator): Both the naiads and the adults play an important role in the food web. The naiads (aquatic nymphs) are considered important food for fish,

frogs, birds, and a variety of aquatic insects. The adults are prey for dragonflies, spiders, birds, fish, and frogs. The adults do feed on nuisance species such as gnats and mosquitoes, however this predation is not enough to significantly decrease the population of these species.

References:

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