

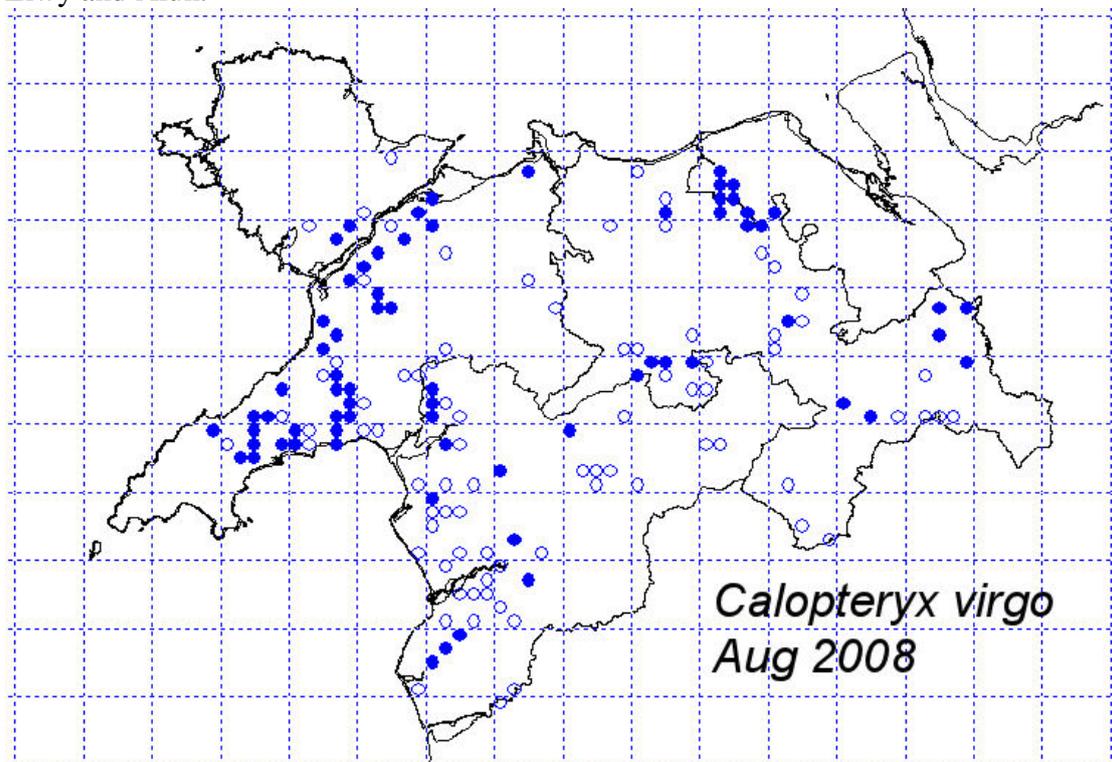
No 24. 20th October 08

Hi all,

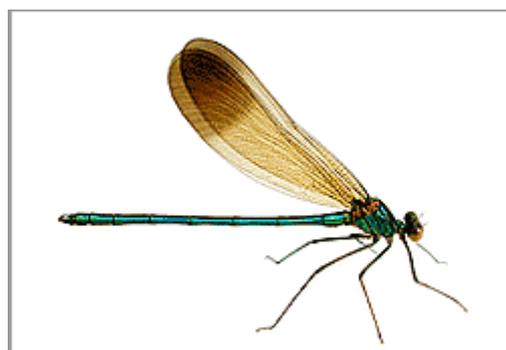


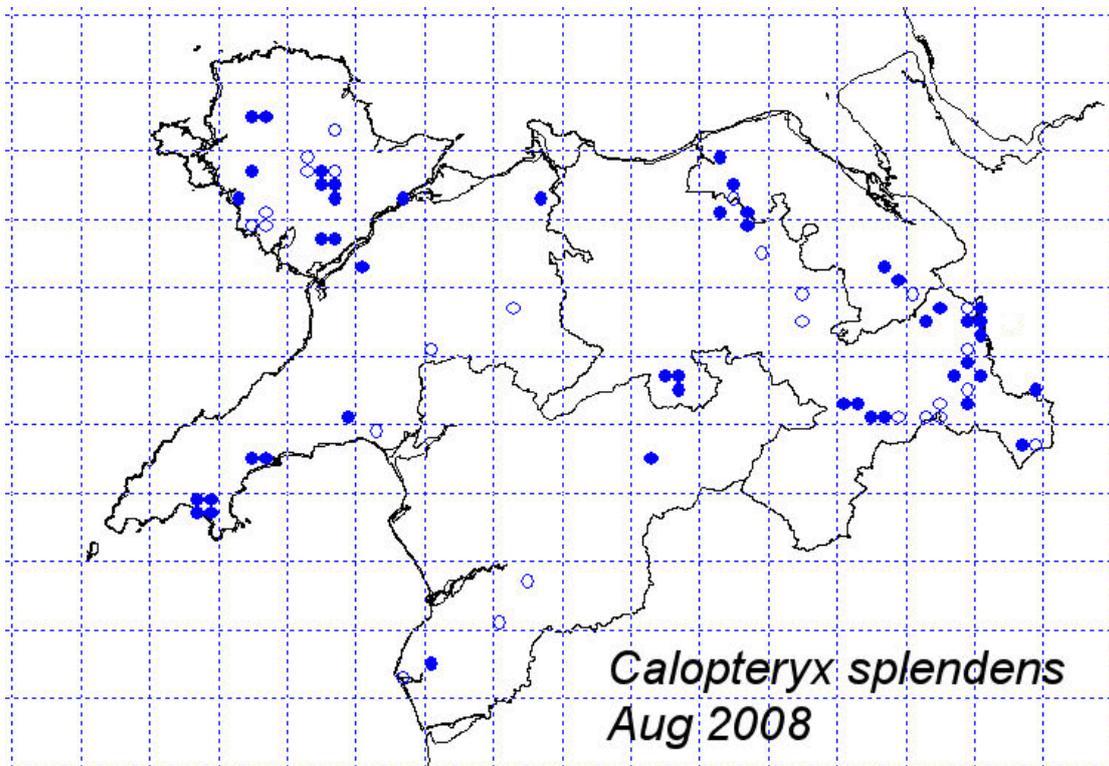
Damselfly distribution maps

The Beautiful Demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*) breeds in many of our faster flowing streams and rivers of hilly regions such as in western Snowdonia and on the Llyn Peninsular, and also faster stretches of some Denbighshire rivers such as the Clwyd, Elwy and Alun.

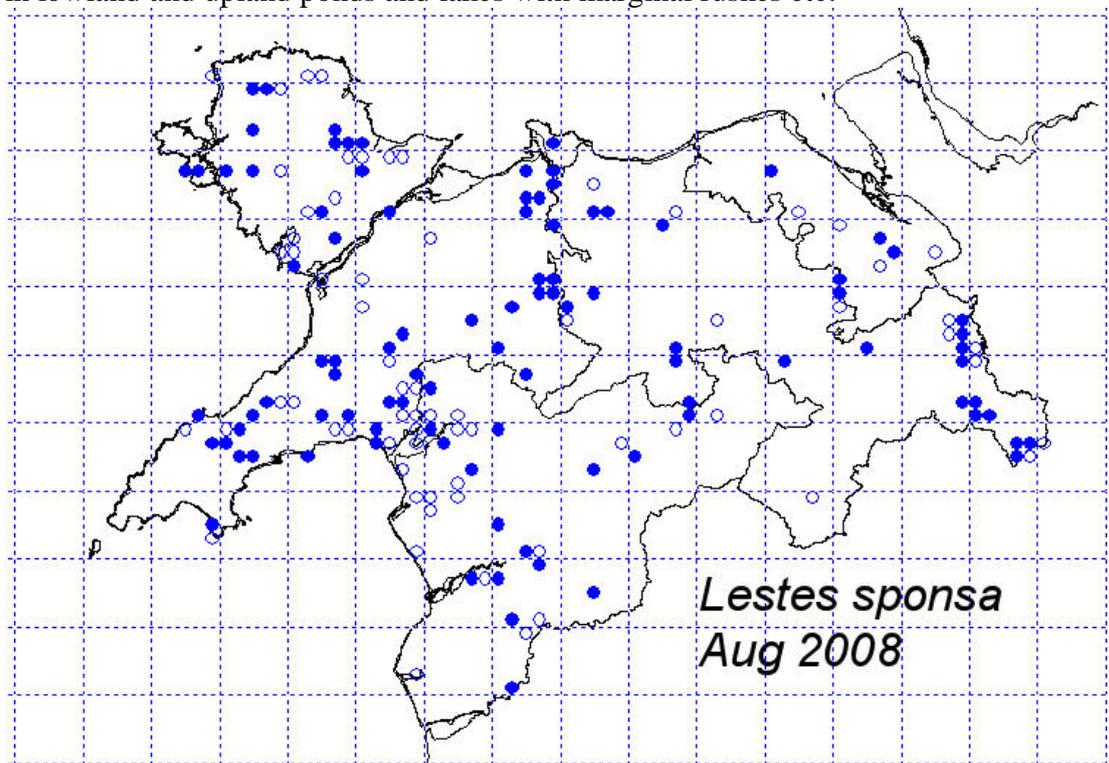


The Banded Damoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*) is found along more slow-flowing lowland streams and rivers of southern Llyn, Anglesey, and eastern Denbighshire and Flintshire.

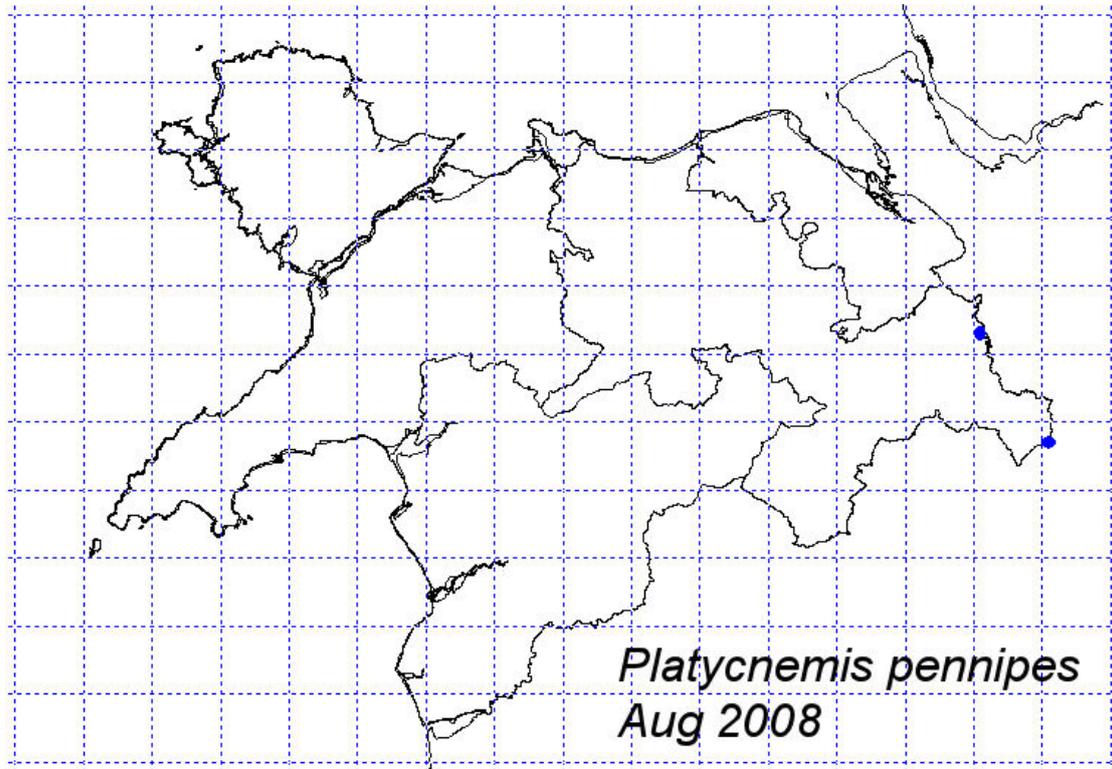




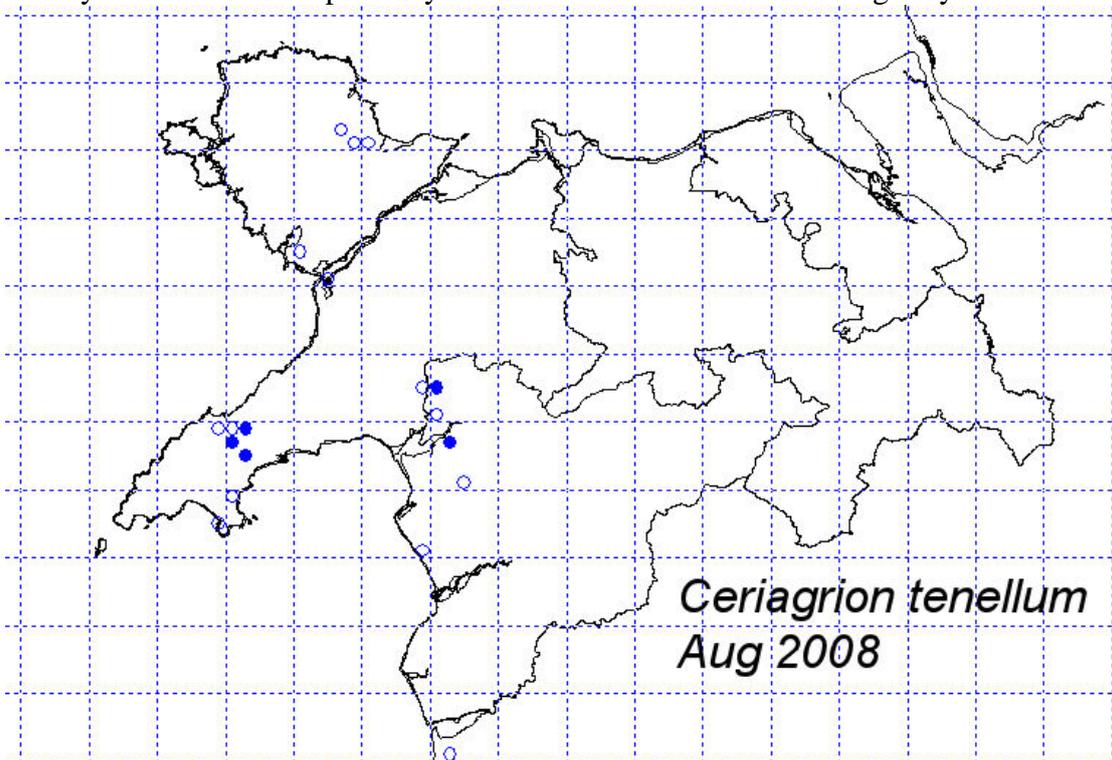
The Common Spreadwing or Emerald Damsel (*Lestes sponsa*) is widely distributed in lowland and upland ponds and lakes with marginal rushes etc.



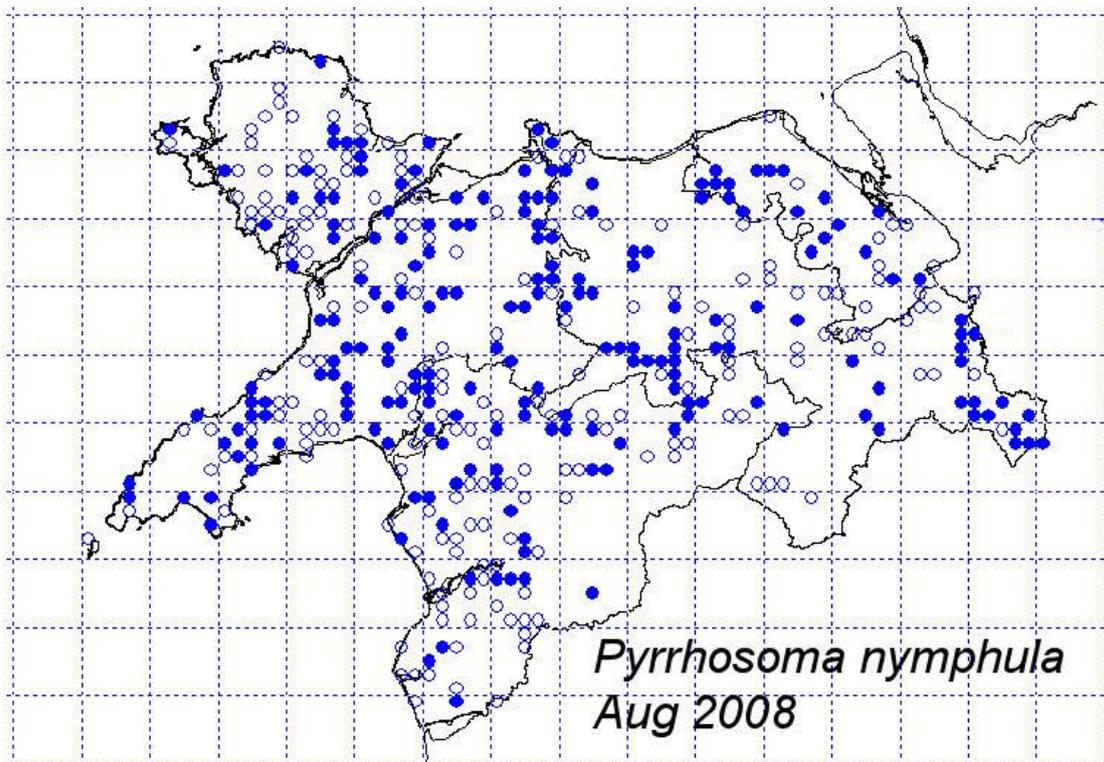
The riverine Blue Featherleg or White-legged Damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*) has been known at Fenn's Moss for a number of years but colonised the Dee as recently as 2006.



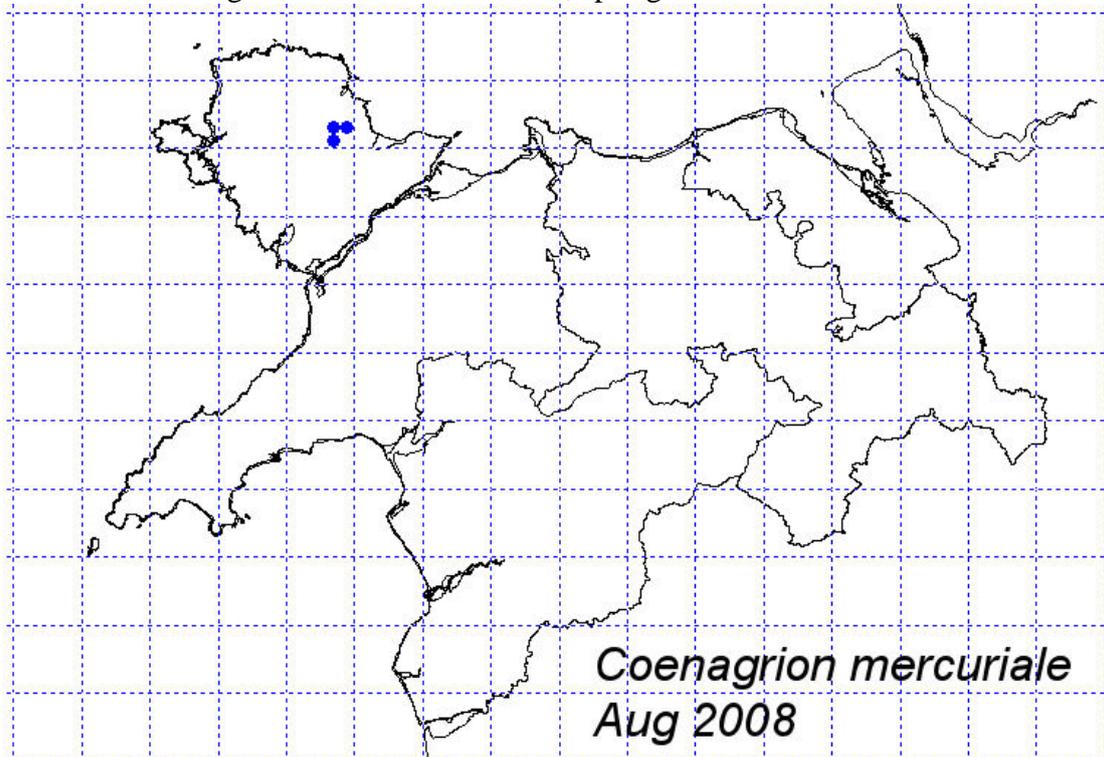
The Small Red Damselfly (*Ceriagrion tenellum*), the sole European member of a Paleotropical genus, is thriving at a few shallow bog pools on the Llyn and around Penrhynedraeth but is probably extinct at its former haunts in Anglesey.



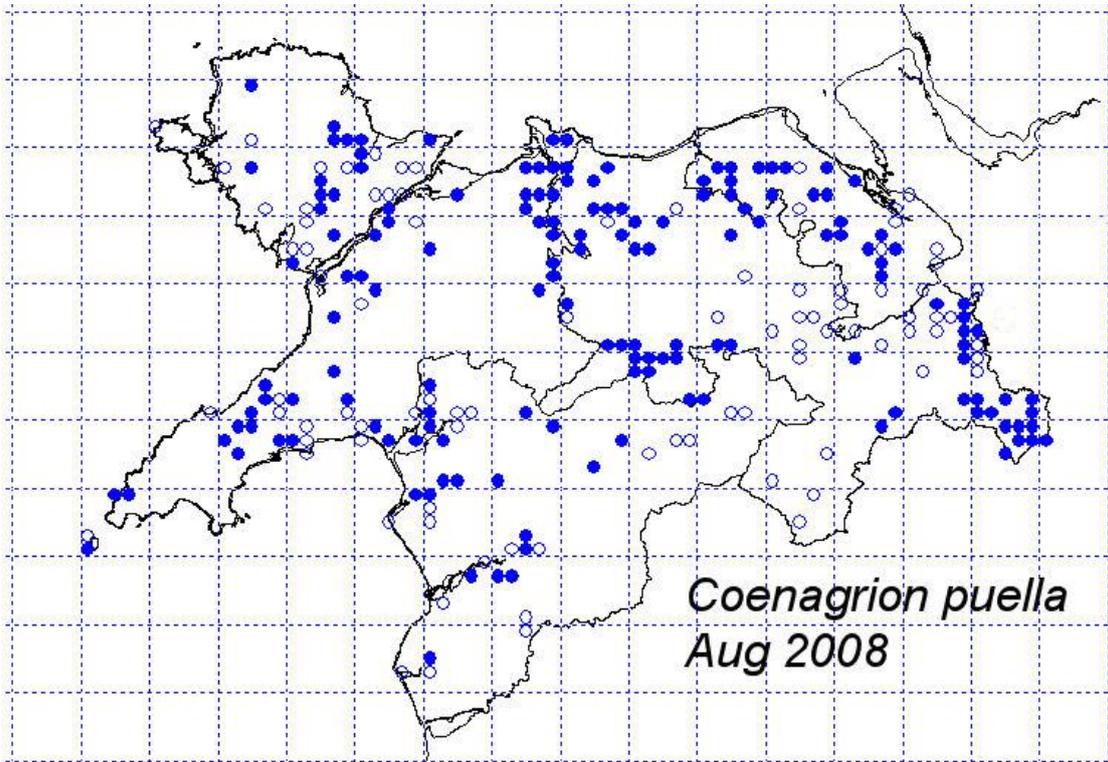
The Large Red Damsel (*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*) is ubiquitous across North Wales, equally at home in both lowland and upland ponds, lakes, ditches and slower parts of streams.



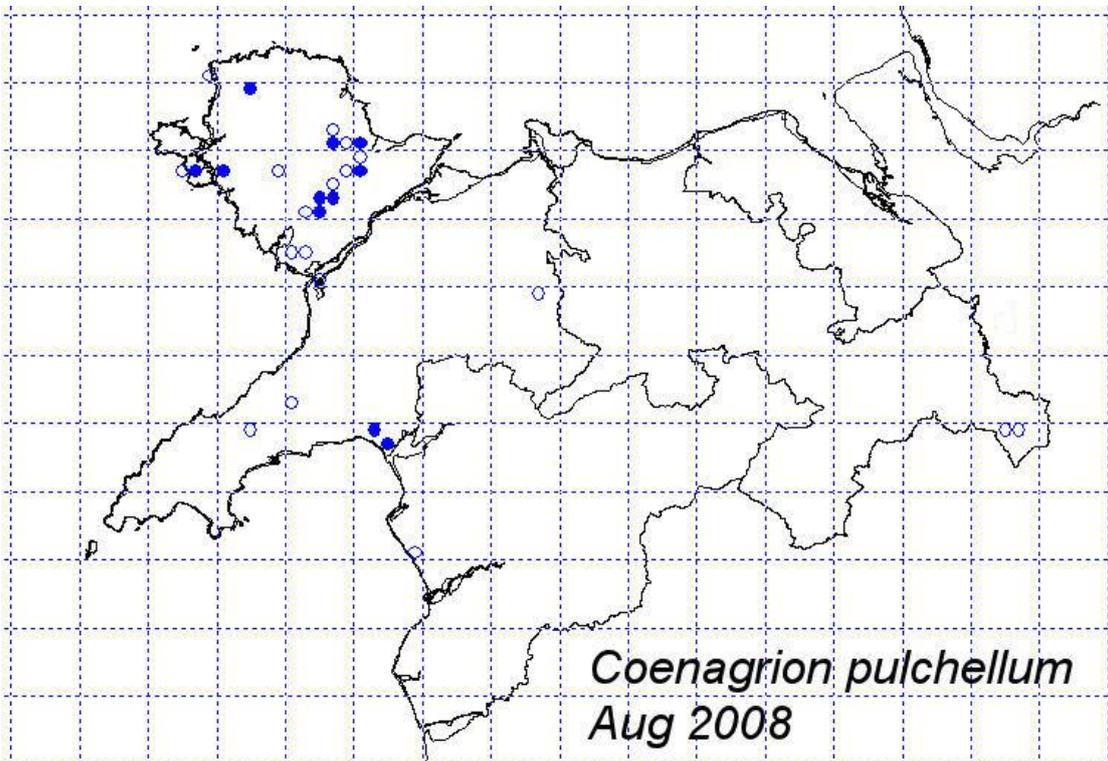
The Mercury Bluet or Southern Damsel (*Coenagrion mercuriale*), the first of our European bluets, was discovered by Les Colley at Cors Erddreiniog at the northern extreme of its range where it likes base-rich, spring-fed streamlets.



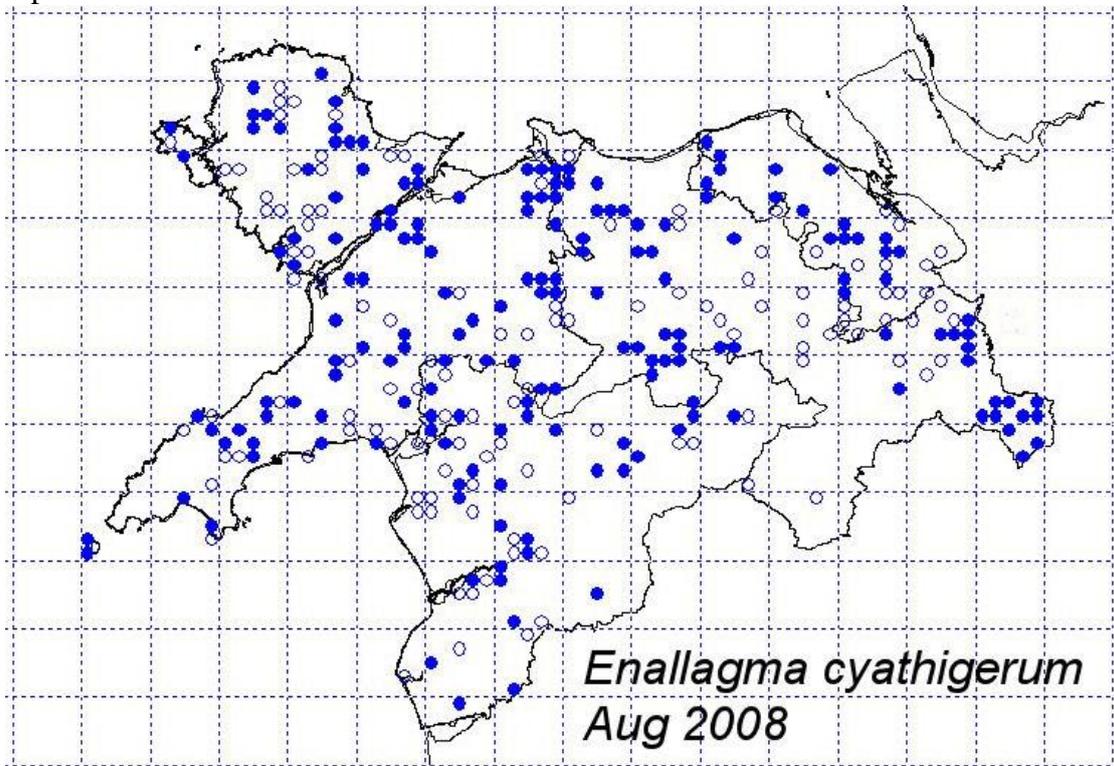
The Azure Bluet or Damsel (*Coenagrion puella*) is common and widespread across North Wales in ponds with good marginal vegetation but keeps to the valleys of Snowdonia.



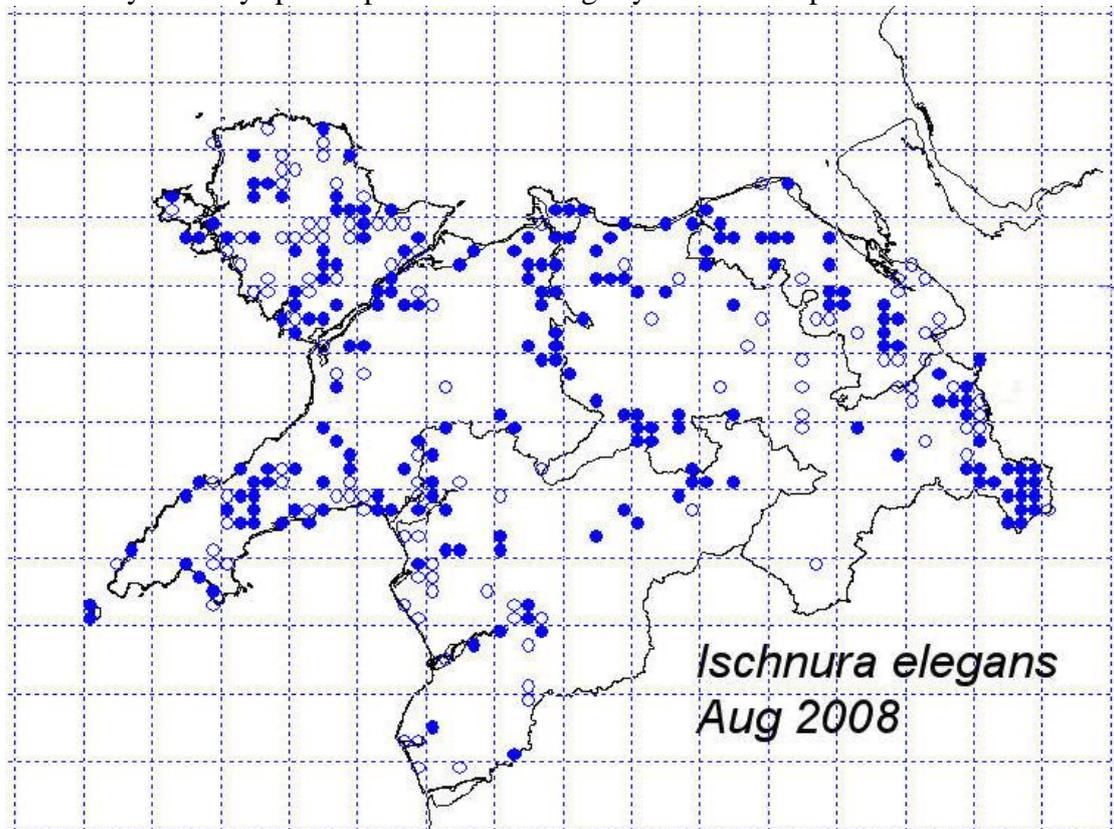
The Variable Bluet or Damsel (*Coenagrion pulchellum*) is more particular and is only found in Anglesey and at a few sites in eastern Lleyln. It may have been lost at the few other sites.



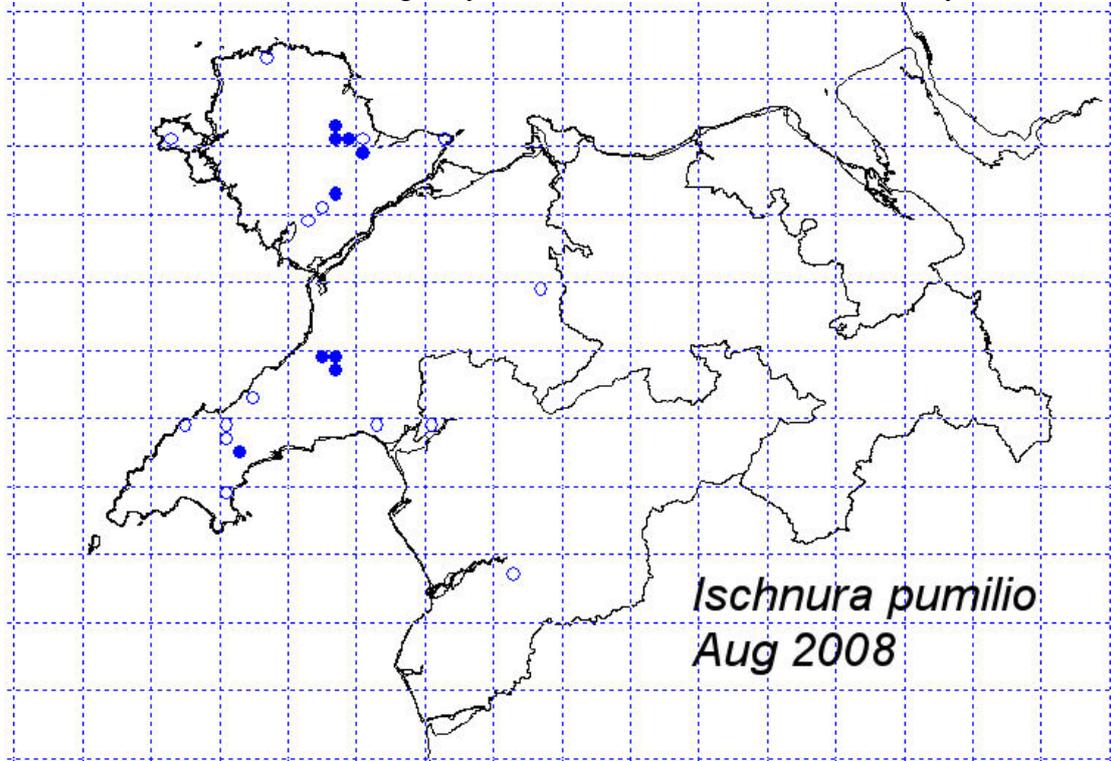
Europe's only American bluet, the Common Bluet or Damsel (*Enallagma cyathigerum*), is also Britain's commonest and most widespread bluet. It is at home at open ponds and reservoirs, often with little or no vegetation, even up on the mountain tops.



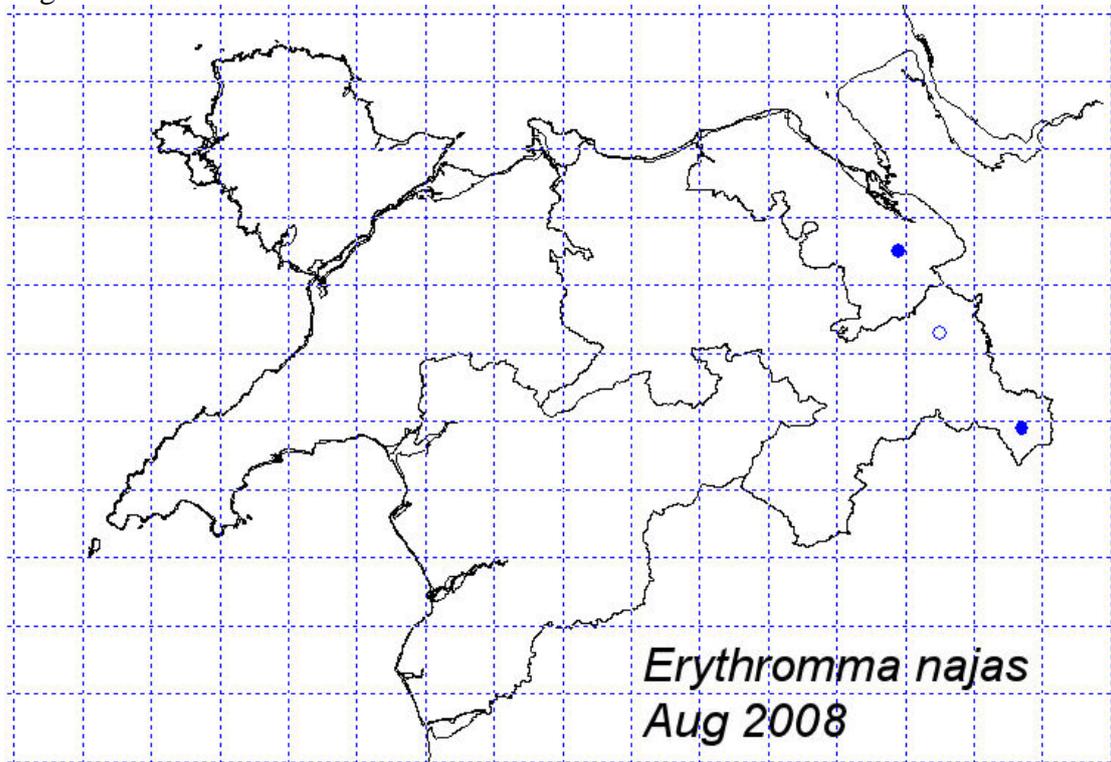
Like the Azure Bluet, the Common Bluetail or Blue-tailed Damsel (*Ischnura elegans*) is widespread in the weedy margins of our lowland ponds, lakes and ditches. It is commonly the only species present where slightly brackish or polluted waters occur.



This apparently rare species, the Small Bluetail or Scarce Blue-tailed Damsel (*Ischnura pumilio*), is fond of spring-fed, cattle-trampled ponds and may have been overlooked at these sites in Anglesey, western Snowdonia and on the Lleyn.



The Large Redeye or Red-eyed Damsel (*Erythromma najas*) is known from a few lily ponds and lakes in the east of North Wales. Having expanded north and west in England since the 1980s it shows no inclination to move farther west.



If you are aware of any dragonfly or damselfly species in a 10 km grid square not shown by these distribution maps would you please let me know.



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