

Emerald Damselfly

(*Lestes sponsa*)



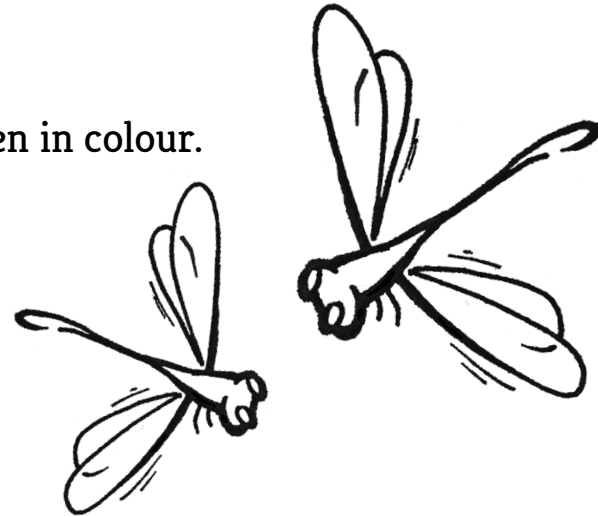
Description: A slim bodied damselfly metallic green in colour.

Time of year to see them: June - September

Size: Up to 40mm long

Habitat: Ponds with tall waterside vegetation

Food: Flies and tiny insects



Emerald damselflies hold their wings half-open in a style unlike other damselflies, the family has the name 'spread-wings' due to this habit. The Emerald Damselfly is also known as the Common Spread-wing. They make use of 360 degree vision to locate their food, and are capable of impressive joint flight when paired with a partner during egg-laying. Emerald damselflies prefer clean water and can be absent from polluted waterbodies, which makes the clean water ponds of the New Forest ideal habitats for them.

