

ARGIA VIVIDA Hagen ♂

U. S.

det. ~~M. J. Westfall, Jr. 19~~ L. K. Gloyd 1983

NEW MEXICO, Sierra County

State Road 90, MP

? April 25, 1978 ?

C. D. Ferris



FLORIDA STATE COLLECTION OF ARTHROPODS

**An Observation of
Vivid Dancer, *Argia vivida*
From the Black Range
Research by Jonathan Batkin**

Argia vivida (Hagen in Selys, 1885) Vivid Dancer

Research by Jonathan Batkin

The following Narrative by Bob Barnes, Editor.

The Vivid Dancer, *Argia vivida* was not listed in Volume 2 of the 2nd Edition of *The Odonata of Doña Ana County and the Black Range - The Damselflies*. This addendum is a new species listing for this publication.

During the course of his research on the Odonata of the Southwestern United States, Jonathan Batkin discovered three specimens collected in New Mexico by Clifford D. Ferris in the late 1970s. Two were from the Black Range.

Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West, Dennis Paulson, 2009, Princeton University Press, describes the species at pp. 166-168. Paulson's description of the species indicates that we are within its range of distribution. There is always some concern about the identification of specimens used to determine species' ranges. This species is typically found near [streams and seeps](#).

Given the lack of observations of the Vivid Dancer in the Black Range and Doña Ana County and questions about the southern extension of its range there has been some reluctance to include it in surveys for this area.

The only iNaturalist observations (as of 19 October 2025) of this species in southern New Mexico are from the Sacramento Mountains. There are several observations from the northern part of the state listed at iNaturalist. One of those observations is shown at the upper right under a creative commons license. Although listed as Research Grade some commenters argue that it is a photo of a Springwater Dancer, *Argia funebris*, or that Springwater Dancer cannot be ruled out with this photograph. Note, however, Jonathan Batkin's comment below (it was made generally and not in regard to this particular observation).

Jonathan Batkin notes that "the species has a strong northerly trend in NM, as it does in AZ, but it is probably more common in NM than in AZ. We can't dismiss southern records, because it also occurs in Mexico. Many experts state the extreme similarity between Vivid and Springwater Dancers, but in my limited experience, they look quite different."

About those specimen cards

Formatting, type, and general information differs on the two specimen cards shown on the following page. They do not appear to have originated during the same period, although the specimens were collected within a three-month period. It would be easy to reach a variety of conclusions about the history of the cards. I have run through a variety of scenarios and concluded that the only certain thing is that they were probably not produced at the same (general) time. In fact they may have been produced at some time after 1983 (or perhaps they were just amended after that date). Or



1. There is apparently some uncertainty about the date this specimen was collected, note question marks. The card indicates that It was collected on April 25, 1978 along NM-152 (formerly SR-90*). The specimen card indicates that the specimen was collected in Sierra County. Leonora K. Gloyd determined the species of the specimen in 1983. Collected by Clifford D. Ferris.
2. This specimen was collected in Gallinas Canyon in Grant County on July 8, 1978. Leonora K. Gloyd determined the species of the specimen in 1983. Collected by Clifford D. Ferris. Jonathan Batkin has established a record of this observation in the Odonata Central database ([OC#2969431](#)).



The image directly above is Odonata Central record [2964510](#) from San Diego County, California on 18 August 2025 by kaeagles78. Shown here under Odonata Central's general creative commons license.

*Between 1961 and 1988, what is now known as NM-152, was named SR-90. Prior to 1961 it was SR-180.

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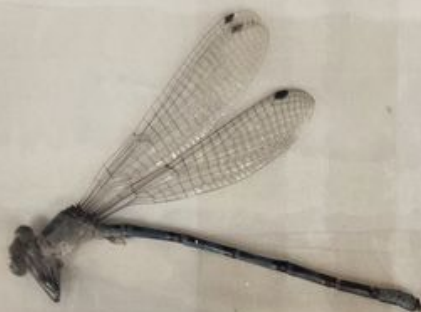
SR 90 MP
SIERRA CO NY
APR 25 1978

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Argia vivida Hagen in Selys, 1865 ♂

det by: Leonora K. Gloyd, 1983

U.S.A.: New Mexico: Grant Co.: Gallinas Canyon, Gila National Forest
08 July 1978
34°11'17" N, 107°19'41" W; 2040 m [coordinates approximate]
Collected by: Clifford D. Ferris
Genital ligula extruded;



FSCA Collection

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