

320
MILLION
YEARS



DRAGONFLY

IT CATCHES ITS PREY IN FLIGHT

There are more than **6,400 species**.

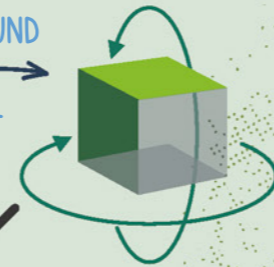
The oldest fossil is from the Carboniferous Period, about 320 million years ago.



They have strong jaws to crush their prey.



THEY HAVE LARGE COMPOUND EYES AND EXCELLENT VISION. THEY CAN SEE IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE.



Taxonomy
Phylum: **arthropoda**
Class: **insecta**
Order: **odonata**

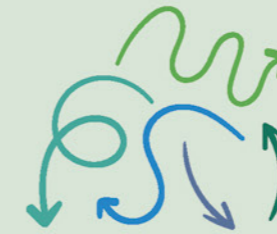
THEY CATCH THEIR PREY 95% OF THE TIME.



UP TO
7
YEARS

LIFE EXPECTANCY
Their lifespan can range from 3 months to 7 years.

THE WINGSPAN IS UP TO
6 inches
(15 centimeters)



While flying, they can remain stationary; they can move backwards, upwards, or downwards, and can make sharp turns at high speed.

They use optical illusions to stalk other insects that invade their territory.

UP TO
5
INCHES

They can be between 1 and 5 inches (2.5 and 13 centimeters) in length.

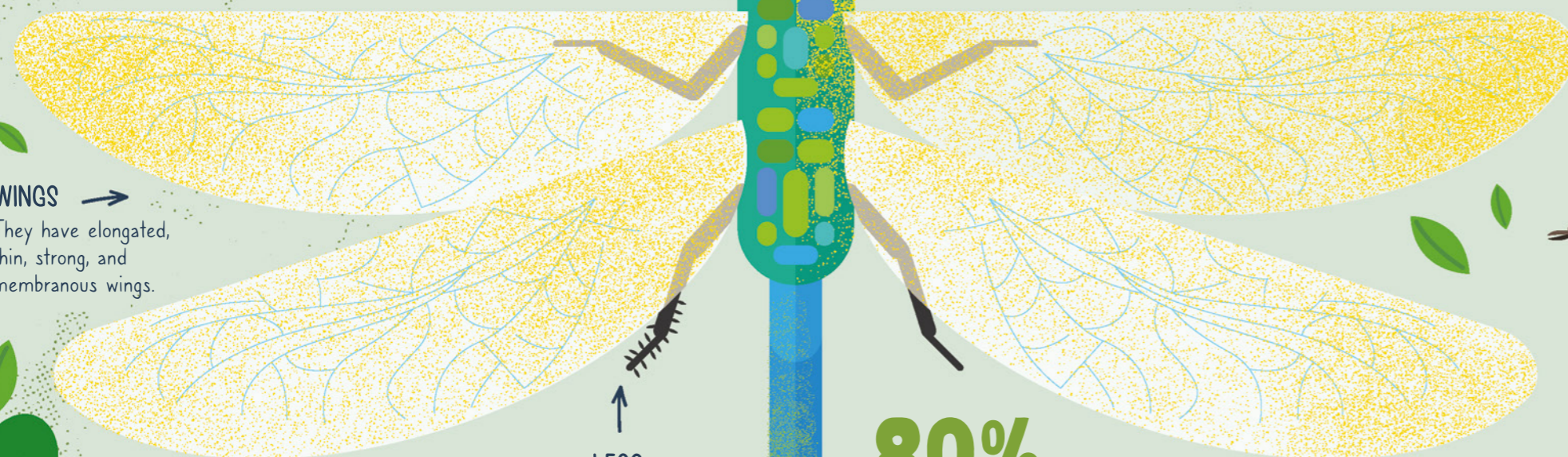
They can fly at a speed of 53 miles per hour (85 kilometers per hour).

UP TO
0.04
OUNCES

Their average weight is up to 0.04 ounces (1.1 grams).

WINGS

They have elongated, thin, strong, and membranous wings.



LEGS

They have 6 legs, which are covered in tiny hairs.

BODY

They have a hard and rigid body.

80%

of their brain is dedicated to analyzing visual information.



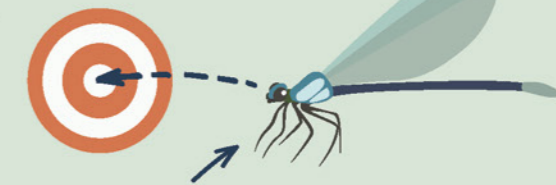
THEY CAN SEE THEIR PREY FROM A DISTANCE OF UP TO 39 FEET (12 METERS).



They feed on mosquitoes, flies, bees, and butterflies.



They catch their prey from below, attacking them with their legs.



The head keeps their prey in sight, while the body maneuvers to get itself in the best angle to capture it.

THEY HUNT CONTINUOUSLY, CLEARING THE AIR OF INSECTS.

They are very intelligent: they have a great capacity for learning and improving their hunting techniques.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



They can be found on all continents with warm and semi-warm climates.



HABITAT

Areas near lakes, rivers, ponds, lagoons, wetlands, and marshes.



They exhibit a variety of colors: blue, green, yellow, violet, brown, and black.

REPRODUCTION

The female lays her eggs in the water or near it, on floating plants.



The eggs hatch into nymphs that feed on mosquito larvae.

This period can last between **2 MONTHS AND 5 YEARS.**

The nymph undergoes its metamorphosis to become an adult and begins to fly.



Scientific Name
Anisoptera



Diet
Carnivorous



Living Environment
Air



Conservation Status
Least concern