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Sympetrum fonscolombii immature male (Selys, 1840) - Italy, Sicily, Trapani: Diga Rubino

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The genus *Sympetrum* Newmann, 1833 (Odonata Libellulidae). *Sympetrum* is a genus of small to medium-sized skimmer dragonflies, known as Darters in the UK and as Meadowhawks in North America. More than 50 species live predominantly in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere; no *Sympetrum* species is native to Australia. This genus is distinguishable for many markings. The forewing has a distinctive venation with $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ antenodal cross veins. The number of antenodal cross-vein (Ax) in the forewing is counted along the anterior wing border between the base and node. The last Ax (closest to the node) is incomplete if only the anterior half is present. The hindwing base are clear or marked with yellow or amber. In Europe, all the species have totally black legs or with a yellow stripe. Only a Turkish species, the Dwarf Darter *S. haritonovi*, has pale tarsi. In the *Sympetrum*, like all Libellulidae and Corduliidae, the acute corner of forewing triangle points backwards. Furthermore, like all Libellulidae and *Anax*, the males do not have anal triangle (a conspicuous triangular field at the hindwing next to the membranule) on the wing. They spend most of their time on perch, from which short sorties are undertaken to chase preys or rivals. Commonly, they are yellow-gold as juveniles and females, with mature males bright red on parts or all of their bodies, with the exception to this scheme color of the Black Darter *S. danae*. Only one species of *Sympetrum* is in the European Red List of Dragonflies with the status Vulnerable (VU), the Spotted Darter *S. depressiusculum*.

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