

Eye D — Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles

Demoiselles are truly beautiful, graceful, dragonflies. They are associated with streams rivers and canals, and from May to September, can be seen fluttering around these habitats. The Banded demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens*, prefers slower flowing mud bottomed water courses, whereas the Beautiful demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo* favours faster flowing sandy or pebbly bottom water courses. In Sussex they are both generally widespread species, sometimes both species can be found together.

Both species are sexually dimorphic, i.e. males and females differ in appearance. The males have unmistakable wing markings however the females of both species look similar and require more detailed field work to tell them apart.

Identification of Males (Difficulty: Easy)

Both species of Demoiselle can be confidently identified from their dark wing markings. Be aware that immature males have fainter wing markings.

Male Banded Demoiselles have dark pigmentation bands through the middle of their wings (right):



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Male Beautiful Demoiselles have even more extensive dark pigmentation, covering most of the wing (left).

Beautiful and Banded Demoiselle Eye-D Continued ..

Identification of Females (Difficulty: Hard)

Demoiselles is a tricky business. Many clues can be ascertained from the habitat type (see above) and presence of male individuals. Both the females lack the dark pigmentation that makes Male Demoiselles so identifiable.

Female Banded Demoiselles have narrower wings with a greenish tint to them (below)



Whilst female Beautiful Demoiselles tend to have a broader wing with a brownish tint (below)

