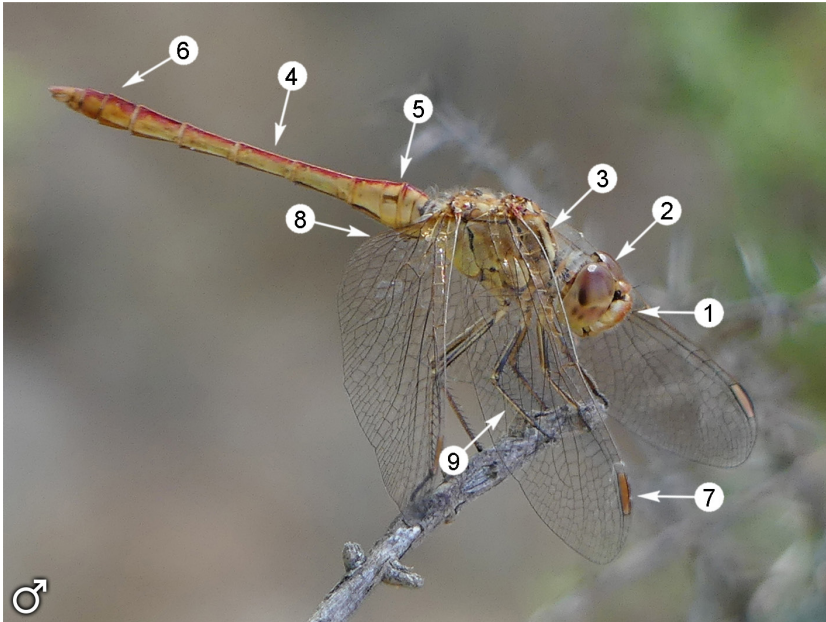




Sympetrum meridionale



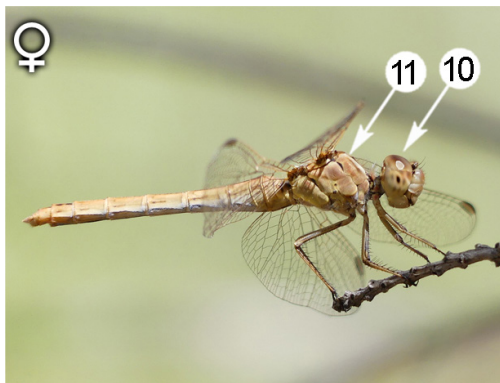
Length: From 35 to 40 mm. Hindwing span: From 25 to 30 mm.

Male: **1.** Red face with two light sides. **2.** Brown eyes, which are darker on the upper part and orangey on the lower one. **3.** Yellow-brown thorax without stripes but with back sutures. **4.** Red abdomen on top and light underneath. It is mostly without black lines. **5.** Sides on S1, S2 and S3 are light in general. Occasionally, they have one small black marking on S3. **6.** There are no black markings on the upper part of S8 and S9.

7. Veins on the forewing margins and pterostigmata are reddish, though they can be grey depending on the light.

8. Transparent hindwing base without spots. **9.** Yellow legs with some black sections.

Female: It is much lighter than the male, but it has the same eyes features (**10**), and the thorax (**11**), which are crucial for making a distinction between this and other females in the genus *Sympetrum*.





HABITAT

It reproduces in standing shallow water bodies with emergent and shore plants in clear areas of rivers, streams and lakes.

WAY OF LIFE

It is commonly seen several kilometres away from water, especially when it is going through its adult stage. It usually rests on the ground or on plants, holding its wings forward over the thorax. Its body is in a horizontal or slightly diagonal position and the abdomen is pointed upward.

WHEN TO SEE THIS SPECIES

In Málaga, they fly from July to December, though they are more likely to be seen in September and October.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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WHERE TO SEE THIS SPECIES

It is the least common Sympetrum in the province, as it has been recorded only few times all over Málaga. It has not been seen on any of the stages of the Great Málaga Path, but it was seen at places close to stages 6, 19, 22, and 32. Thanks to their ability to scatter, these dragonflies can be seen everywhere.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Genera Sympetrum, Crocothemis and Trithemis.

CONSERVATION STATUS

The species is not endangered nor particularly protected by the current environmental law.