

widely spread, they appear to point directly rearward. Other Texas argians have lobes pointing rearward and the medial margins taper outward. The superior lobe in lateral view is blunt or ends in a pointed tooth-like tip; however, this portion of the appendage varies (in lateral view) in some species. The lateral profile view of the inferior abdominal appendage in *A. nahuana*, *A. plana* and *A. immunda* in particular may vary from figures given for these species. Their inferior lobe appears more blunt in some individuals than others; however, the key should effectively separate these species bearing in mind this possible variation.

The apical and medial margins of the superior abdominal appendage in dorsal view are convex, bifid, etc. These appendages in some species are difficult to see clearly when intact on the specimen. An oblique dorsolateral view facing the specimen from a posterior angle often reveals the most definitive structure. Figures illustrate appendages in this position if the key uses the trait. The superior abdominal appendages have less diagnostic value in lateral view; however, appendages in *A. munda* and, to a lesser extent, *A. hinei* when viewed laterally reveal portions of their ventral surfaces. Appendages of other species when viewed laterally reveal ventral surfaces only when in atypical positions. A tooth, usually black, typically occurs at the apical or subapical surface of the appendage and a blunt process may arise from the medial surface. The apical tooth is laterally visible or hidden behind the superior lobe of the inferior abdominal appendage, depending on articulation of the appendages.

Argian species occur over a range of 20 mm in body length, and this trait is helpful in diagnosing species near the limits of length distribution. Body length ranges, grouped from smallest to largest species including both sexes, appear in Table 2. Adult size probably varies with environmental conditions and duration of the larval stage; consequently, small variations from the measurements in Table 2 may occur.

Color and stripe patterns are not well-suited for species determination in an argian fauna of 15 or 16 species. An experienced observer can identify individuals in the field with such characters; however, color tones are particularly unreliable in a key. Colors fade in museum specimens, have reversible changes in life for some species and pruinescence effect adds further differences. Stripe patterns show little change if any with aging (except through pruinescence); nevertheless, limited taxonomic value lies in thoracic stripes due to intraspecific variability. The abdominal stripe and spot patterns are less variable.

Distinct dark middorsal and humeral stripes occur in *A. bipunctulata*, *A. rhoadsi*, *A. moesta*, *A. tibialis*, *A. translata* and *A. sedula*. Their humeral stripes are broader than the suture and the stripe usually forks somewhat at its posterior third in *A. tibialis*, *A. sedula*, and *A. rhoadsi*, and either forks or encloses a pale spot in *A. bipunctulata*. A forked stripe bifurcates as its name implies. The humeral stripe of *A. moesta* is largely posterior to the suture and often obscured by pruinescence. A pale stripe occurs within the posterior half of the humeral stripe in *A. translata*. The