

The dragonflies and damselflies of Lough Carra

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Fourteen species of dragonfly and damselfly have been recorded on the Lough Carra shoreline habitats in, or adjacent to the designated cSAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation). Since these insects require healthy and appropriate habitats in both the aquatic environment (for the larval stages) and the terrestrial environment (for the adult stage), they might be considered as indicators of the overall ecological health and status of these habitats. In order to provide an initial assessment, the distribution of dragonflies and damselflies was recorded as presence or absence in each of the 38 1km grid squares around the Lough Carra shoreline during the period May to September 2003.

The distribution and diversity of dragonflies and butterflies in the lakeshore habitats was found to be highly variable. The distribution of each species around the Lough is shown on the 14 species maps below.

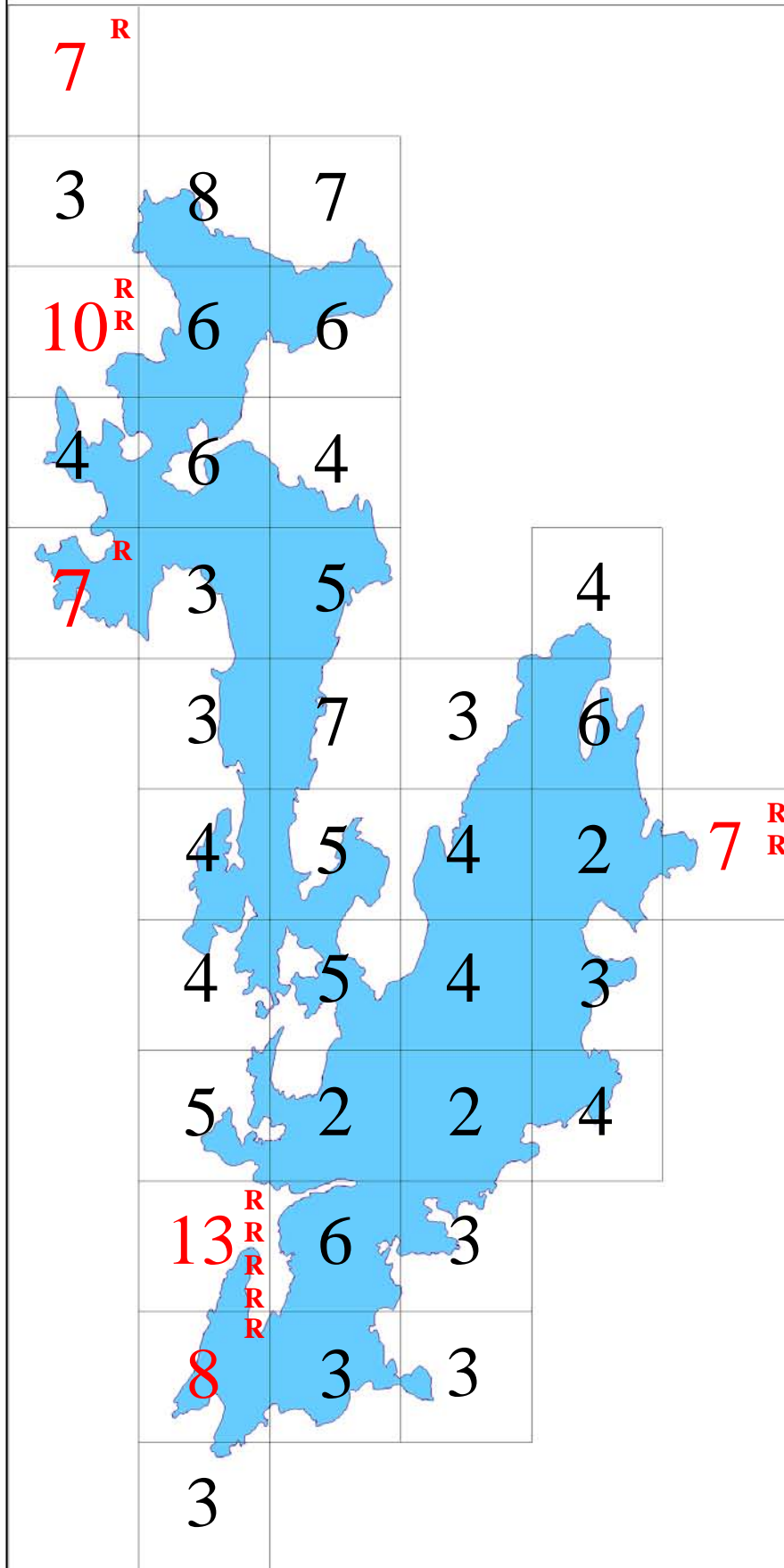
However, it is important to note that the maps represent a “snapshot” of the distribution of each species as recorded during the 2003 survey, i.e. they do not show the definitive range of each species. We know that some of the species occur more widely around the lakeshore than these maps suggest. Revised maps showing the distribution according to all records will be prepared and posted on this website as soon as they become available.

The diversity of dragonfly species in each grid square is shown in Map A where the number in each square represents the number of species recorded in that square. In addition those squares in which the “rarest” species were found (i.e. those occurring in 10% or less of the squares) are marked with an “R” for each “rare” species recorded. The numbers in red denote those squares with both high diversity (at least 50% of the total number of species recorded) and at least one “rare” species.

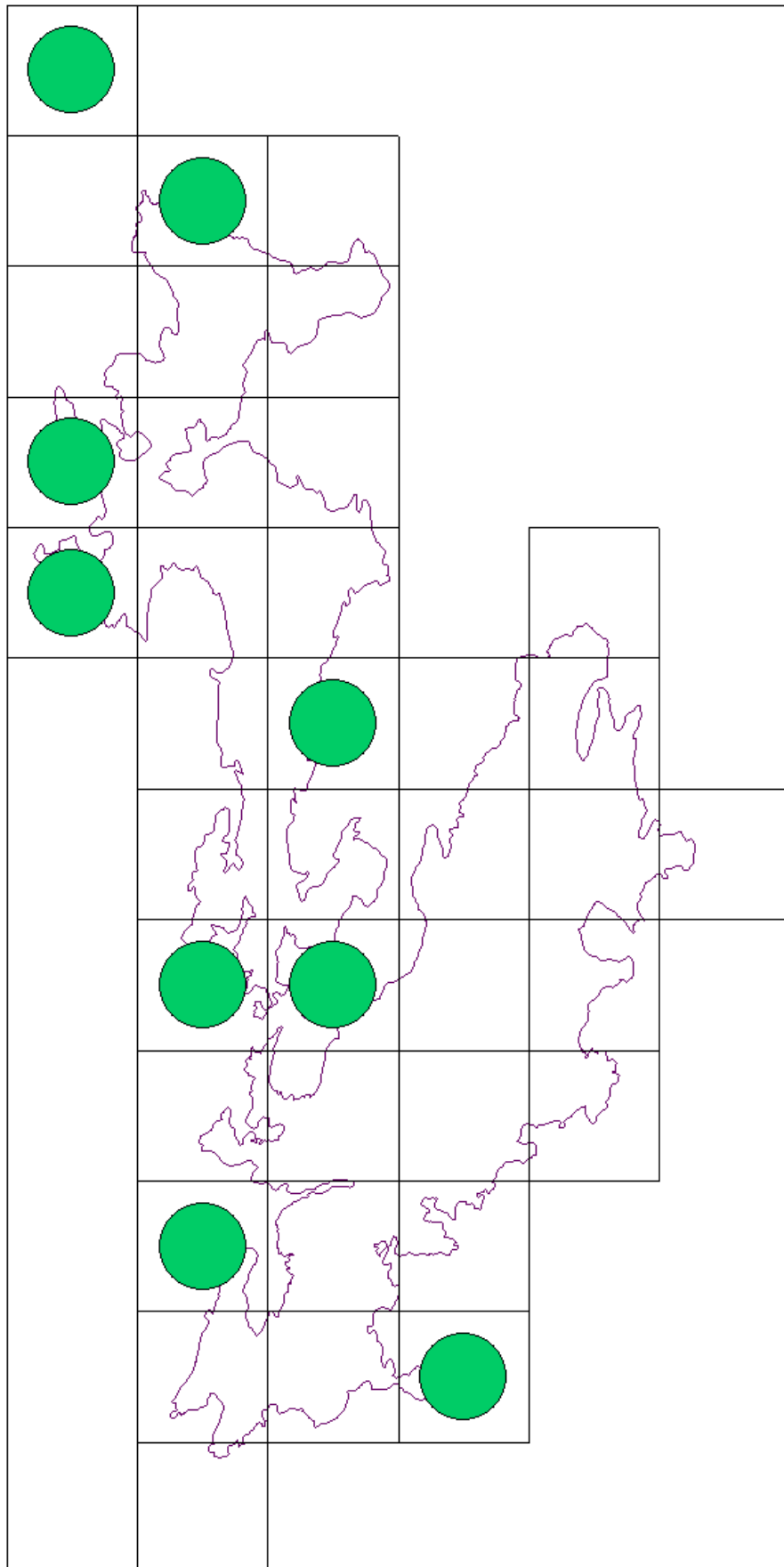
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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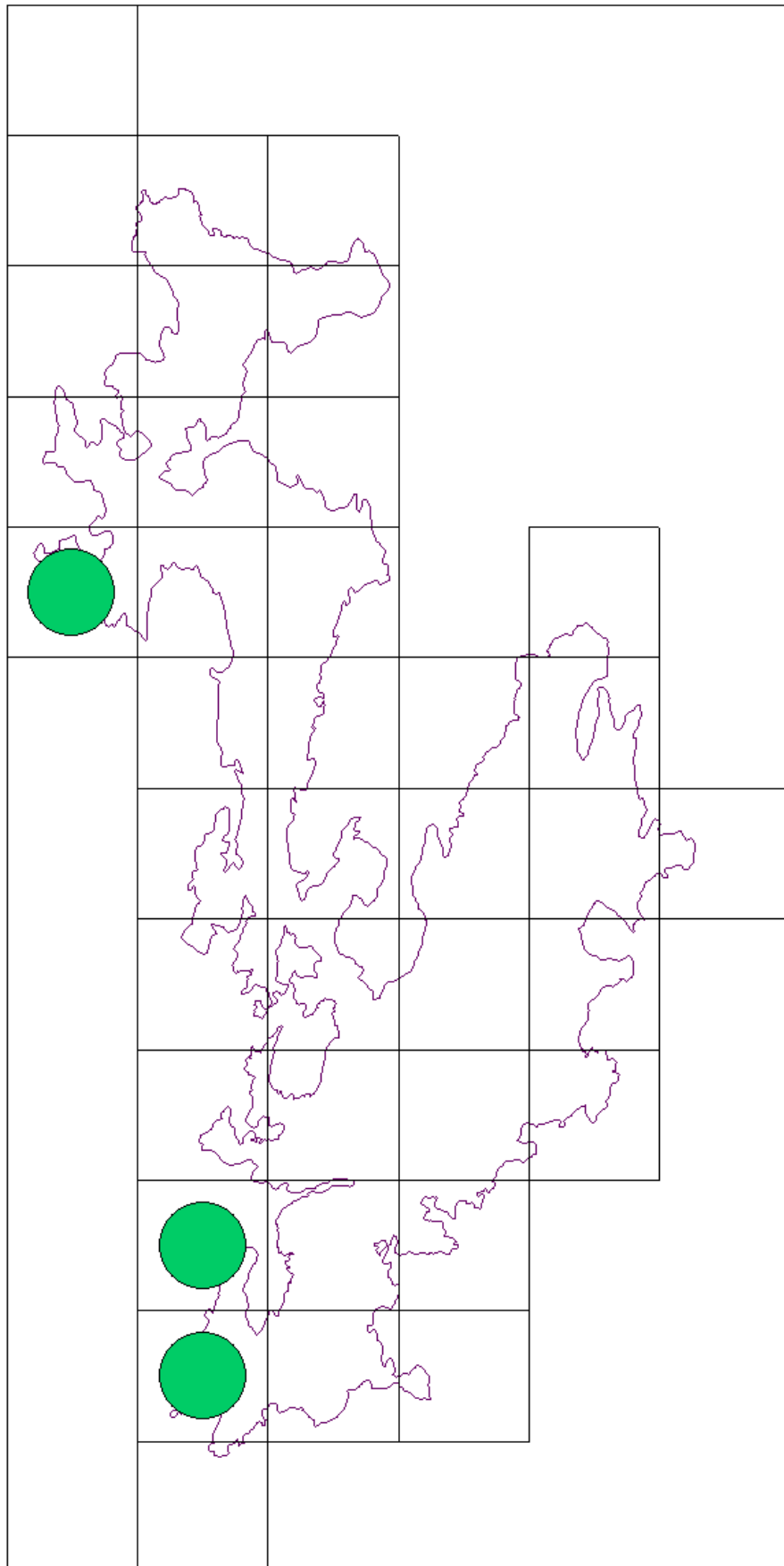
Map A



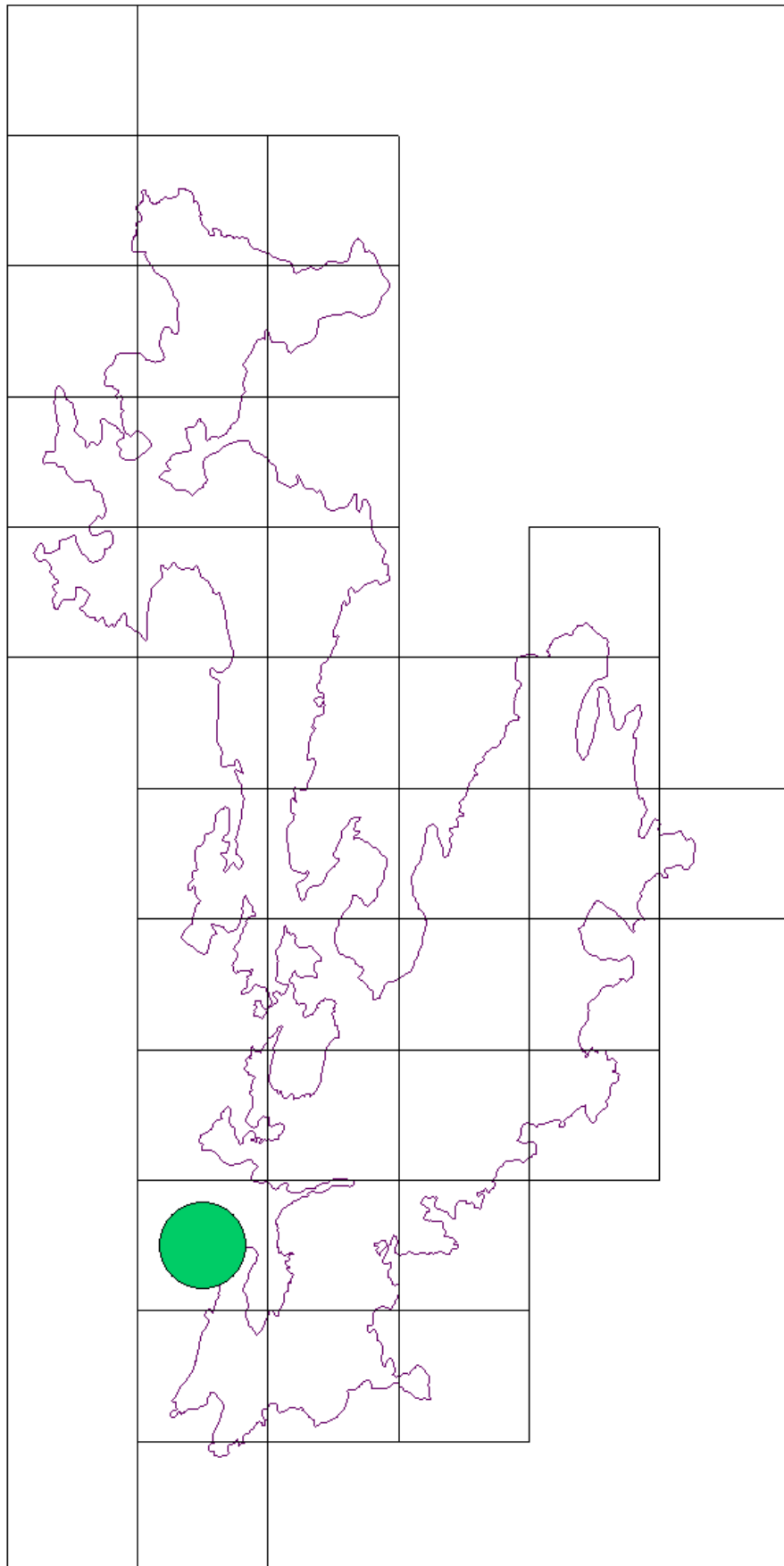
Emerald Damselfly



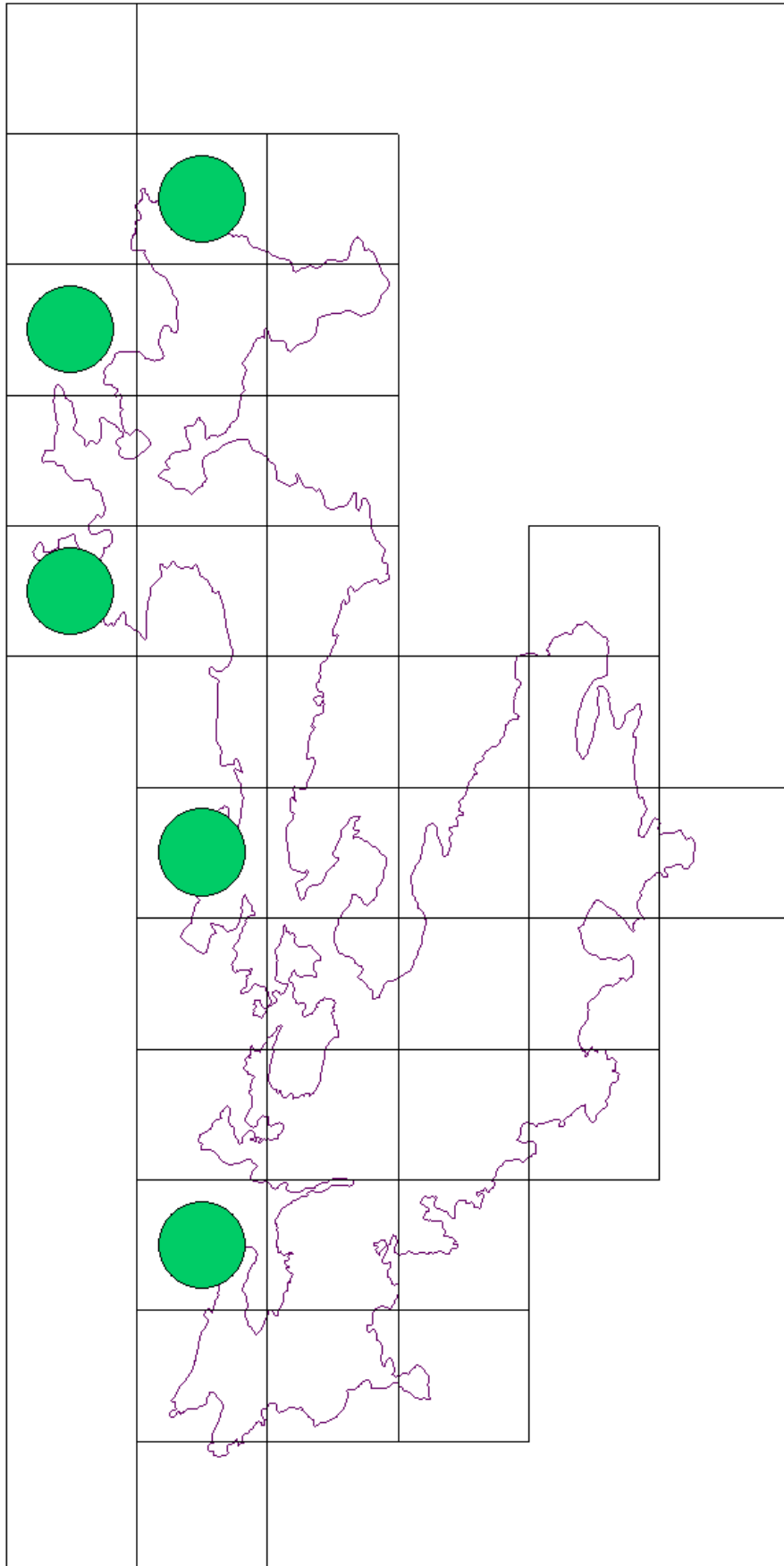
Large Red Damselfly



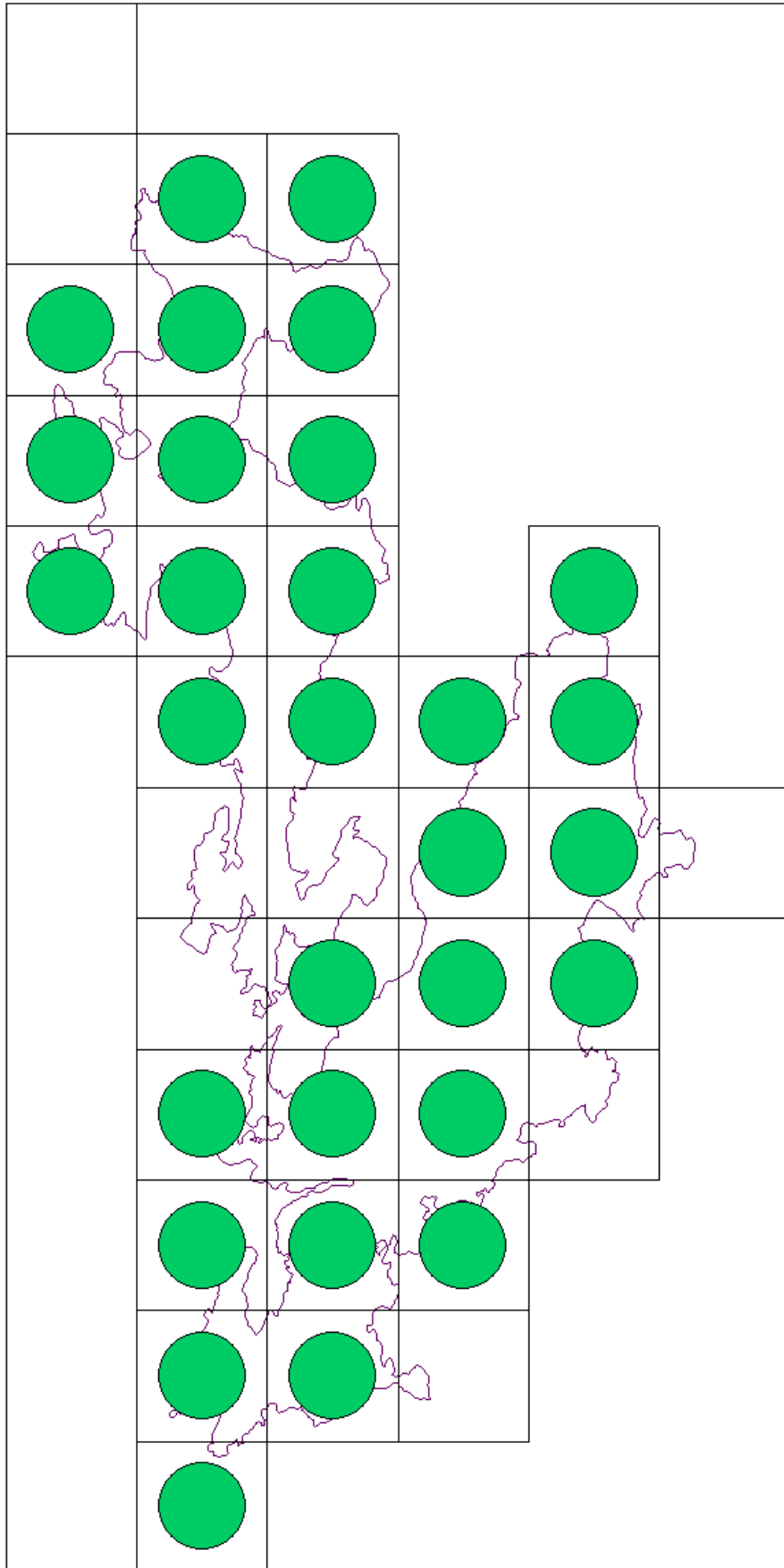
Azure Damselfly



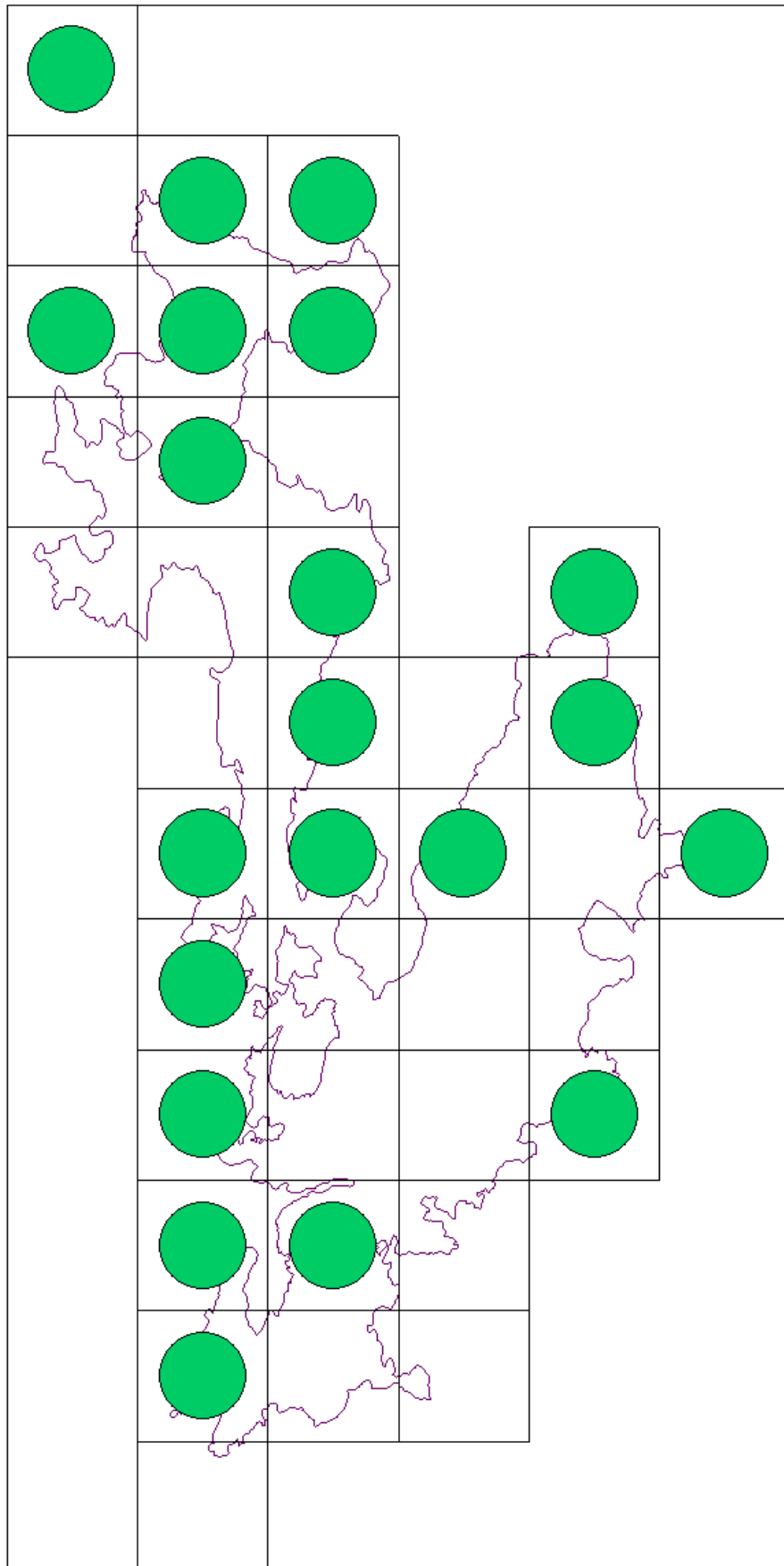
Variable Damselfly



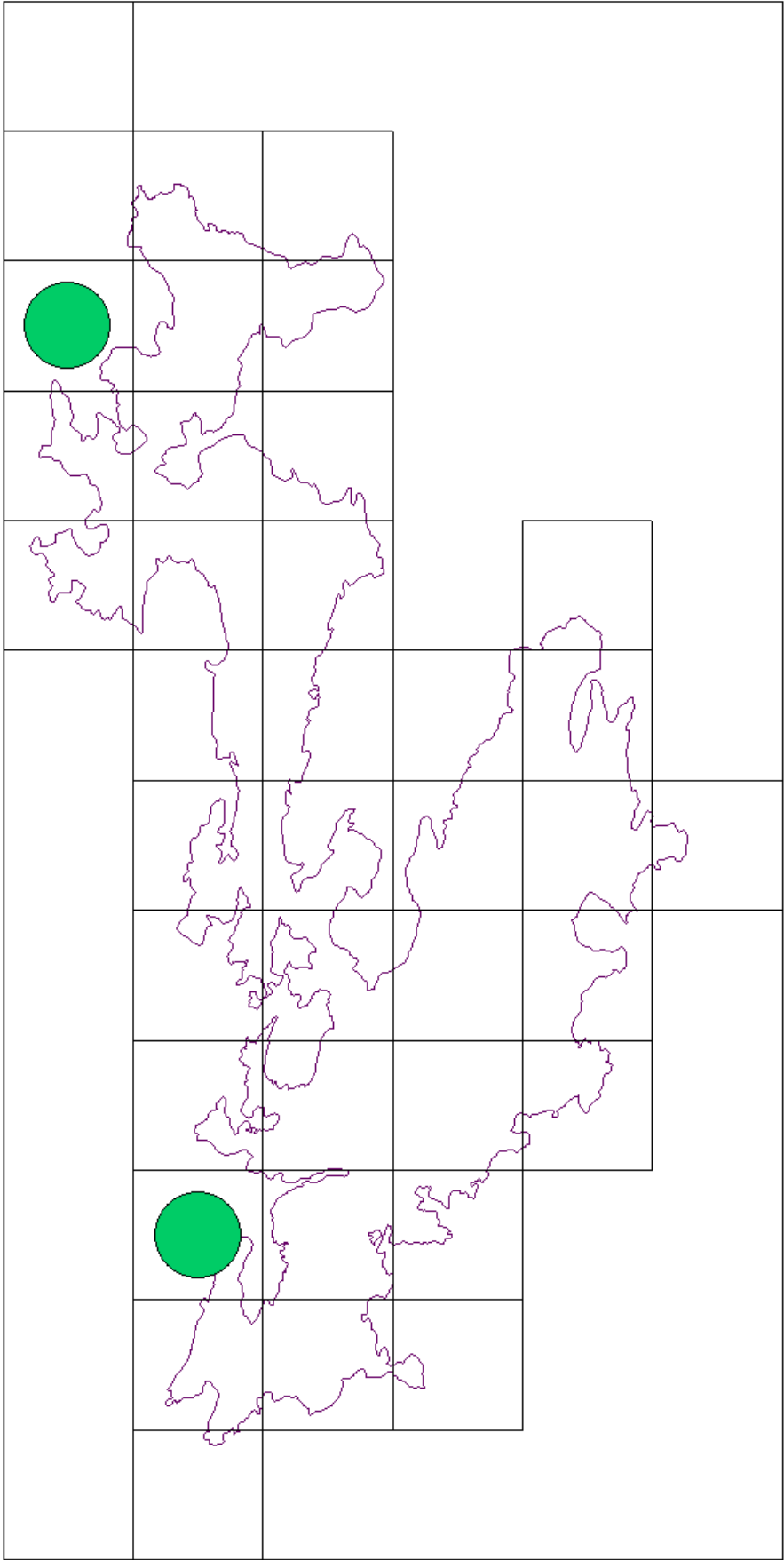
Common Blue Damselfly



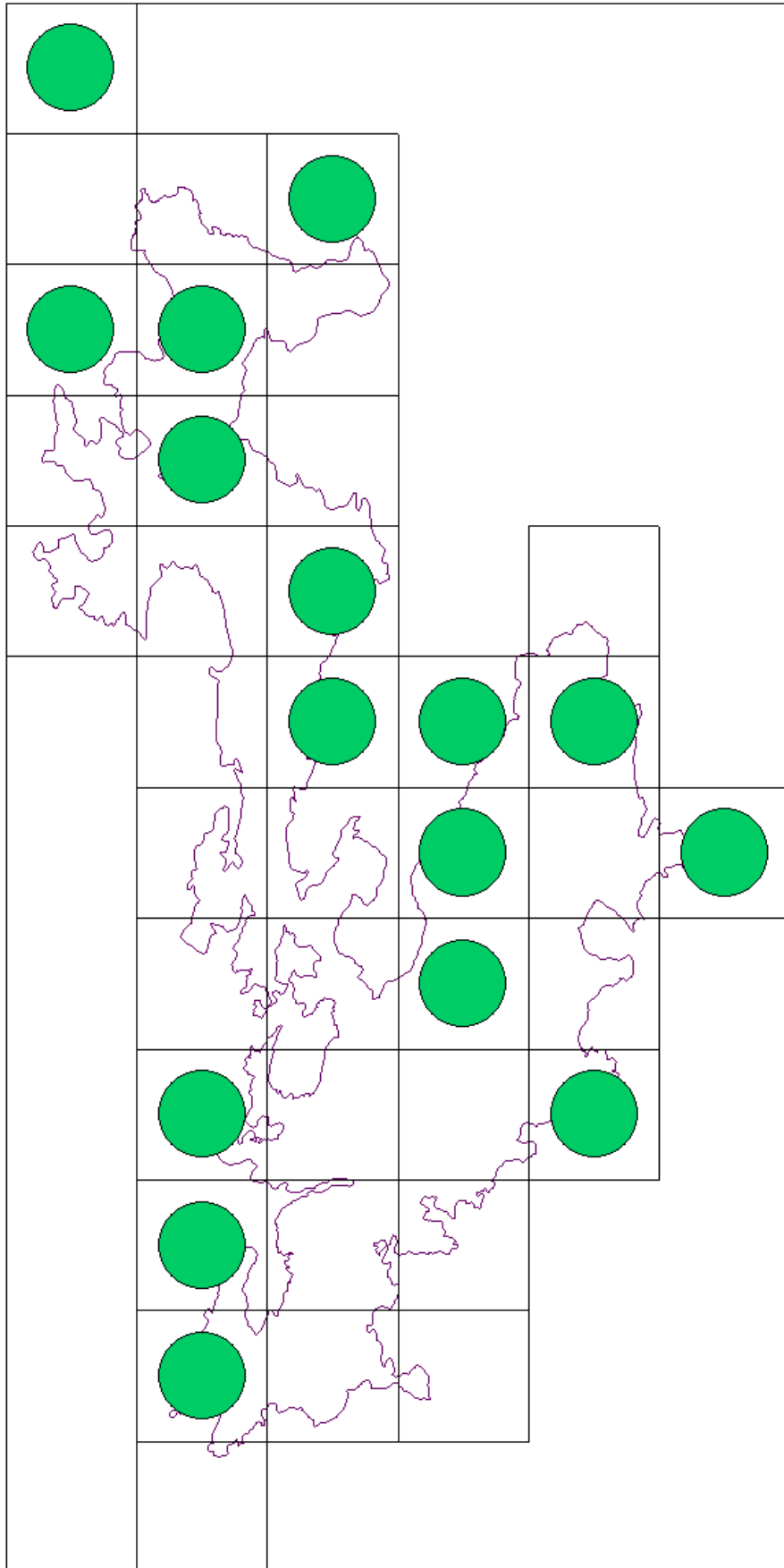
Blue-tailed Damselfly



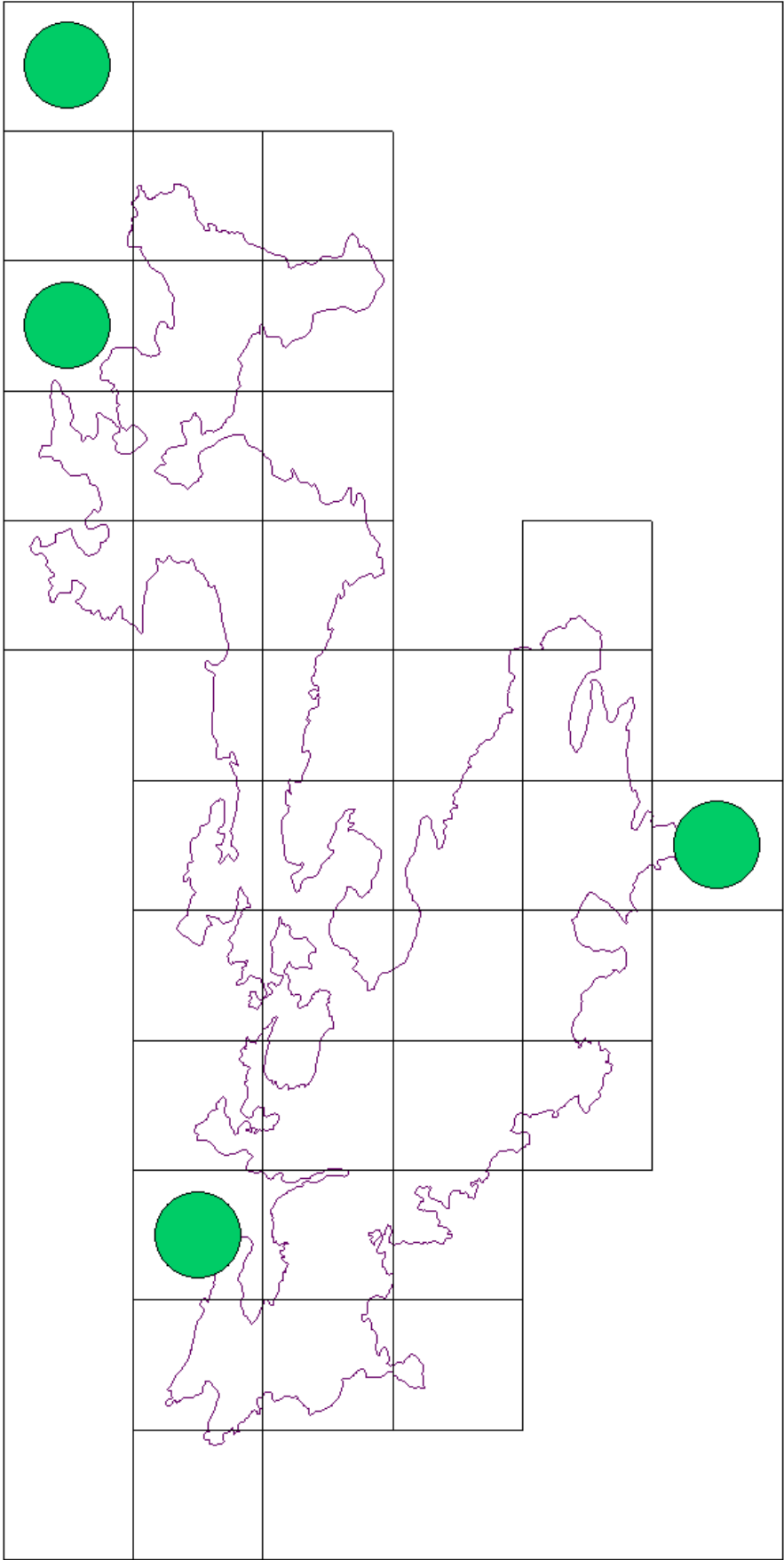
Hairy Dragonfly



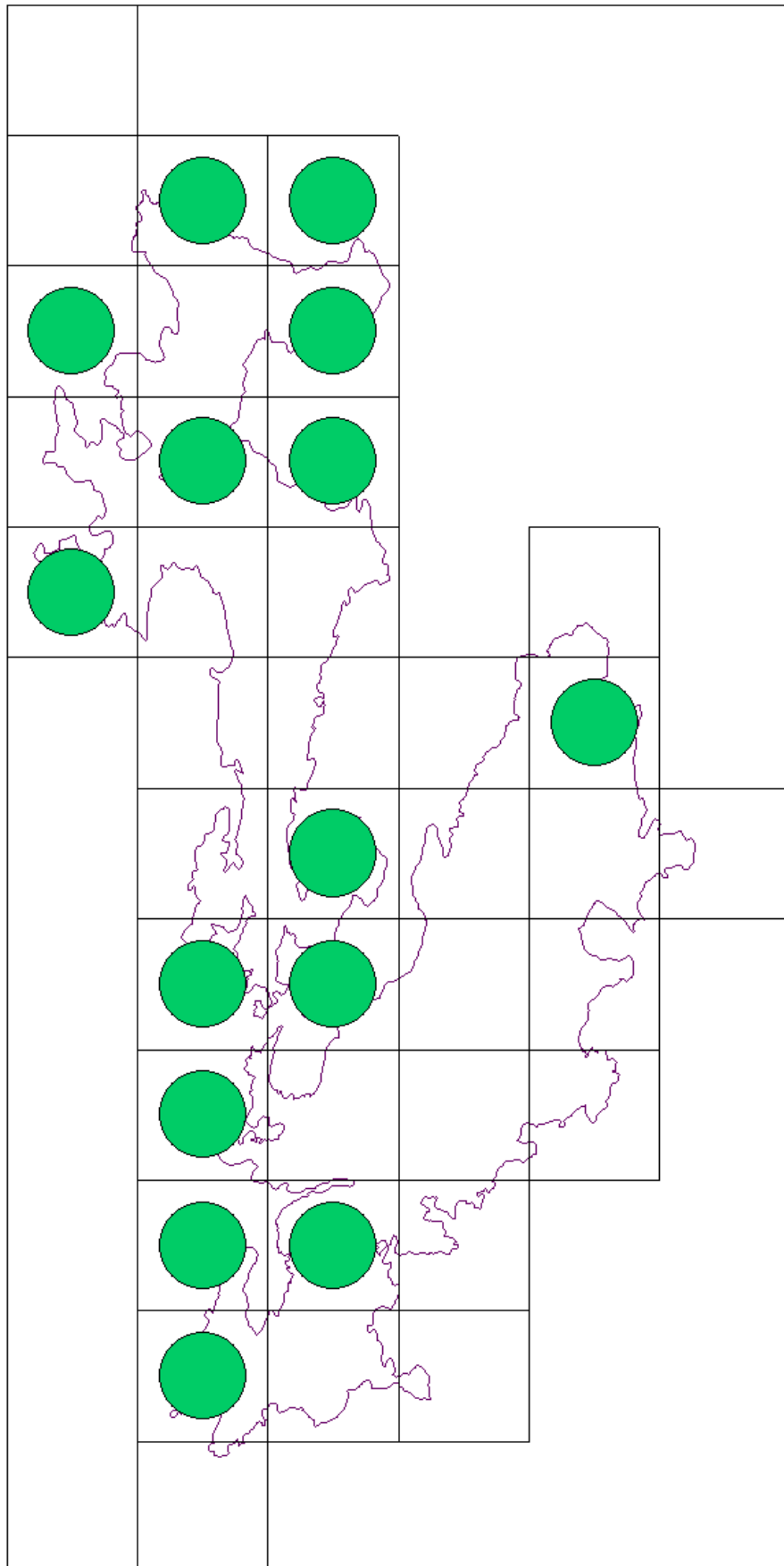
Common Hawker



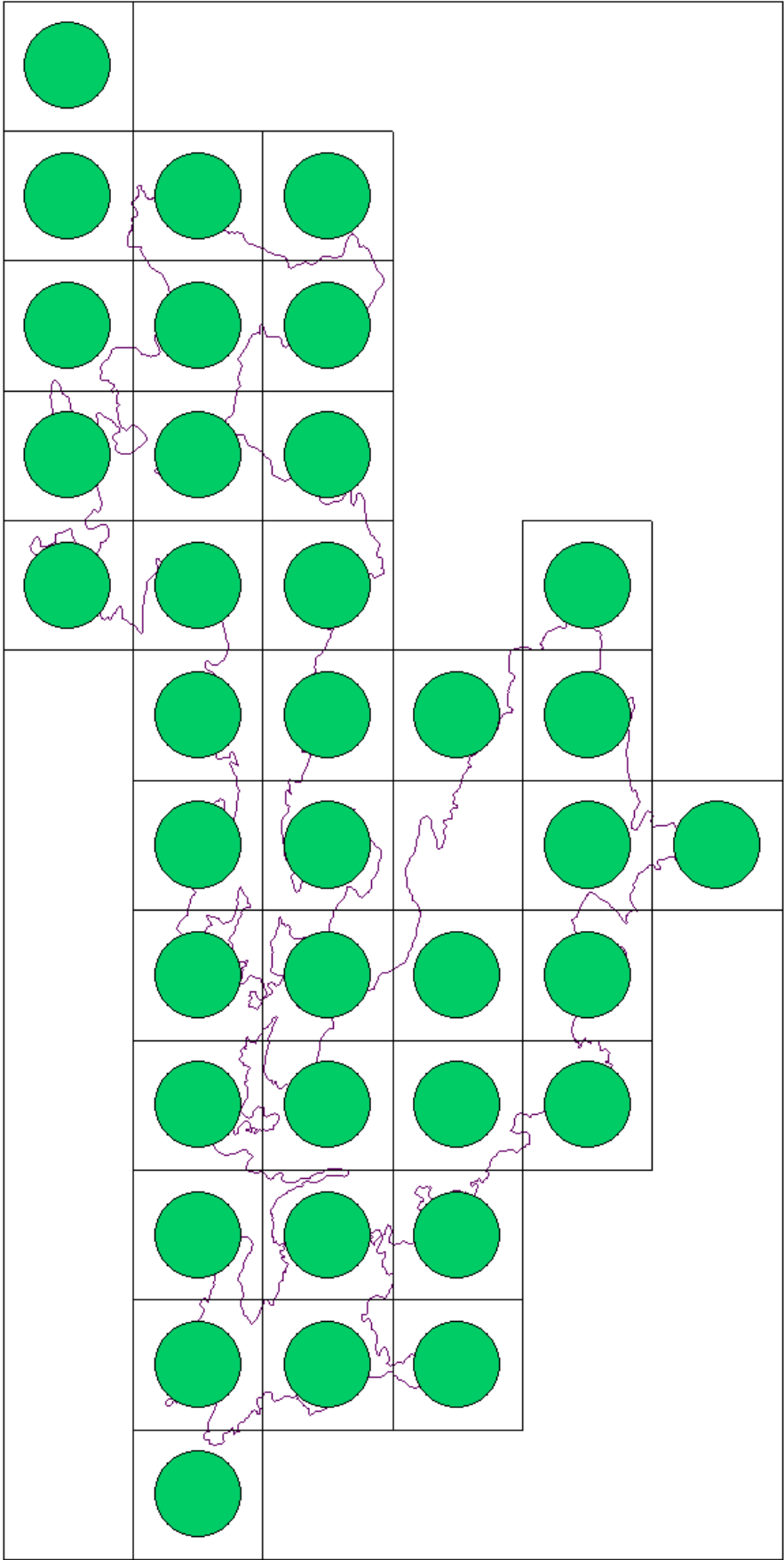
Four-spotted Chaser



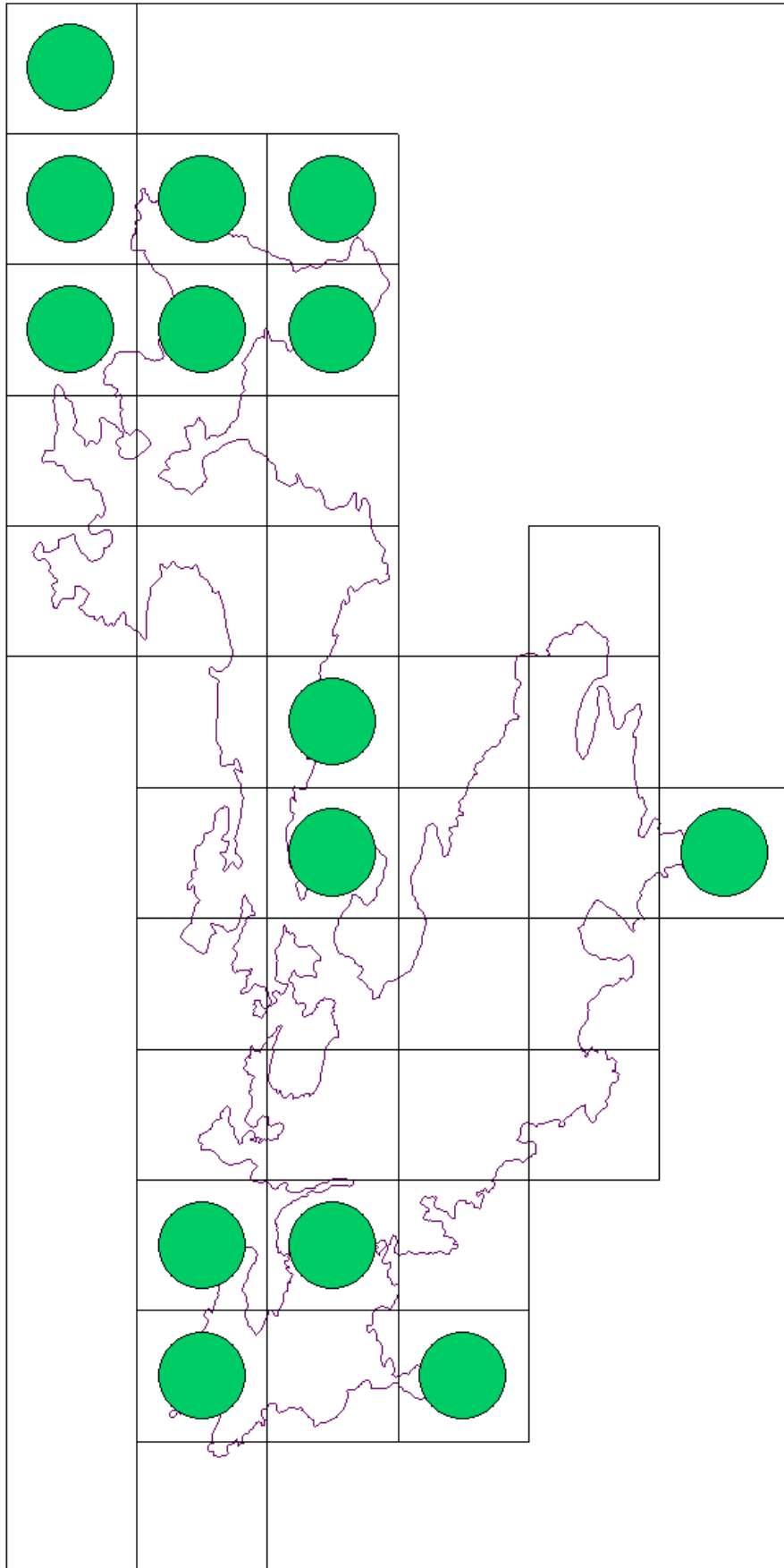
Black-tailed Skimmer



Common Darter



Ruddy Darter



Black Darter

