

## 'Banded Demoiselle' Damselfly Nymph (*Calopteryx splendens*)

An Insect (6 legs) with no pupal stage (incomplete metamorphosis).

Size: Up to 40mm

**Carnivore** – Fierce predator feeding on mosquito larvae, bloodworms and other invertebrates. Shoots out 'mask' with strong claws to grasp prey, then devours with mandibles (similar to dragonfly nymphs).

Breathes through gills in abdomen and 3 leaf-like tails. Paddle-shaped tails also used to aid swimming.

Banded Demoiselles are one of the largest species of Damselfly in the UK. Nymphs develop over 2 years, burying into mud to overwinter. Fully grown nymphs climb up riverside vegetation to emerge as winged adult. Adults only live for 1 or 2 weeks.

