Pinao 'ula, Orange-black Hawaiian Damselfly

Scientific name: Megalagrion xanthomelas

Damselflies (pinao 'ula) are related to dragonflies (pinao), but are smaller and more delicate. There are about 25 native damselflies in Hawai'i, and they were once found all over the state, especially near ponds or streams. The keiki of most pinao 'ula, called *naiads*, live underwater. They are predators, and feed on other insects such as mosquito larvae. Unfortunately, pinao 'ula are now rare because nonnative fish feed on their naiads. This is why it's important that you never release pet fish into streams or ponds.

The Orange-black Hawaiian Damselfly used to be one of the most common damselflies in Hawai'i, breeding in pools, streams, and taro patches. Because of non-native fish, it is now one of the rarest species in Hawai'i, living in only a few small areas around the state. Biologists working for the State of Hawai'i are trying to help save the species by raising naiads in captivity and releasing them into streams and ponds that don't have non-native fish in them.

Instructions: 1) Color your pinao 'ula. 2) Cut out the pieces along the dotted lines. 3) Poke holes for antennae (small circles between eyes) using a pencil or hole punch. 4) Bend pipecleaner into a U shape, poke through holes, and tape in place. 5) Glue or tape the headband pieces onto the back of the damselfly head. 6) Glue or tape wings onto the headband. 7) Try your headband on and have a friend help tape the headband pieces together in the back.



