

Bog Copper (*Lycaena epixanthe*)

Pennsylvania Species of Concern

State Rank: S2 (imperiled) Global Rank: G4G5 (apparently secure to secure)

Identification:

The Bog Copper has a wingspan of 7/8 to 1 inch. On males, the upper surface of the wing is brownish with a purple iridescence, a white margin, black dots and a reddish zigzag line on the lower portion of the hind wing. The upper surface wings of females are a dull gray-brown with black spots and a white margin. The wing underside of both sexes is white or pale tan with dark spots and a reddish zigzag line on the lower portion of the hind wing.

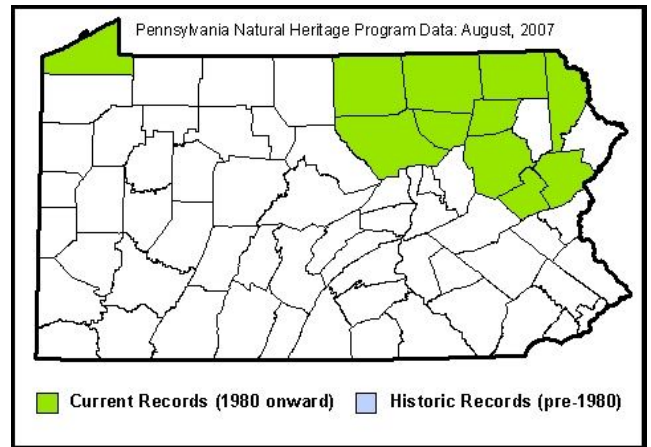


Habitat:

This species is restricted to acid bogs or other wetland habitats containing cranberries. Habitats are mainly open, but may have some trees. Some habitats at least from southern Maine to New Jersey are very wet acid sedge meadows with cranberry between the sedges rather than true bogs. Soils or Sphagnum must be saturated or nearly so most or all of the year. Bog Coppers are usually excluded from commercial cranberry bogs by insecticides.

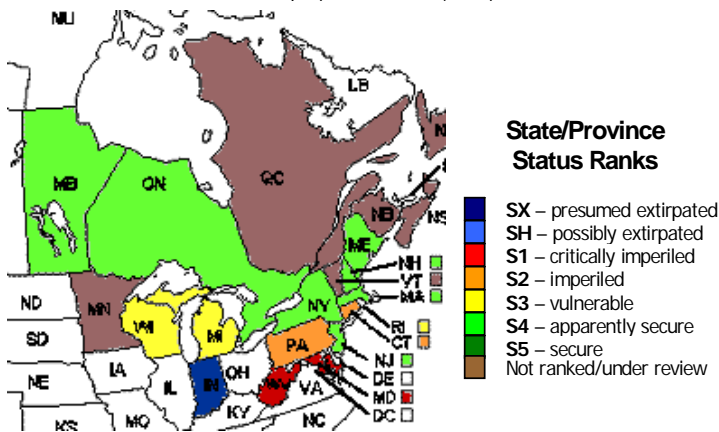
Life History:

Caterpillars feed on shoots and leaves of cranberry plants. Adults feed on nectar from cranberry flowers and water from raindrops. Males perch on low plants to watch for females. Eggs are laid singly at the base of host plant. First-stage caterpillars overwinter in their eggs, often underwater.



North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



Status:

Bog Coppers are habitat dependent and can be locally abundant when suitable habitat is present. Habitat is sensitive and subject to draining, flooding, or conversion to commercial use. The wetland habitat of this species should be protected from conversion, pollution and insecticides.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 6, 2007)
- Opler, P.A. and V. Malikul. 1992. A Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston, MA. 396 pp..
- Struttman, J.M. 2005. USGS Butterflies of North America web site: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/usa/269.htm> (Accessed: March 1, 2005)