

Species at Risk & Local Government: A Primer for British Columbia

Advanced Search Search Criteria

Taxonomic Group	Insects
Jurisdiction	All
COSEWIC	All
BC Status	All
BC Wildlife Act	All
Identified Wildlife	All
SARA	All
Management Category	All
Habitat	All
Regional District	Capital Regional District: All Districts and Municipalities
Forest District	All Forest Districts

Search Results

Insects

Dun Skipper

Euphyes vestris

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Threatened	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small, purplish butterfly is found from central California to British Columbia, where it occurs on the Sunshine Coast, in the Fraser Valley and Canyon north to Lillooet and on Vancouver Island south of Courtenay. The species is widespread east of the Rocky Mountains. It is found in moist, open areas containing sedges, which are the larval food plant. Although numerous species of sedge (*Carex* sp.) are used across the range, only one or two are used at each site, a phenomenon found in a number of other butterfly species. Dun skippers live for one year with the adult, flying stage occurring from June to August. Population size remains unknown, but a general decrease in number of sightings suggests that they are in decline. The major threats are believed to be habitat degradation, loss and fragmentation to land development, drainage activities and introduced plant species, especially scotch broom.

[More Info...](#)

Island Blue

Plebejus saepiolus insulanus

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small, blue butterfly is endemic to eastern Vancouver Island from Campbell River to Victoria. It is usually found in riparian areas and meadows, including disturbed areas such as old roads or campgrounds. Related subspecies require clover as a larval food plant, but the species used by the island blue remain unknown. Individuals live for one year with the adult stage occurring between late May and early August. The population size is unknown, but the butterfly has not been recorded since 1979, and may be extinct.

[More Info...](#)

Monarch

Danaus plexippus

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Special Concern	SARA	Schedule 1		

Monarchs are widely distributed from Central America to southern Canada, where they occur in all provinces. Those west of the Rocky Mountains form a distinct population that overwinter along the coast of California in conifer and eucalyptus trees (introduced in the 1850s from Australia). Monarchs require milkweed (*Asclepius* sp.), the larval food plant, and wildflowers for nectar. Larvae store poison from the milkweed plants through adulthood as a predator deterrent. There are several generations each year. The western population commonly numbers in the millions, but varies dramatically from year to year depending on weather conditions. Threats include eradication of milkweed as a noxious weed, development and programs to eliminate Eucalyptus trees along the California coast and a protozoan disease.

[More Info...](#)

Sand-verbena Moth

Copablepharon fuscum

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This species is known from eight coastal spit or dune sites around the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound. Each is believed to support a separate population. Three sites are within Canada, two near Comox and one near Sydney. The moth occurs with large patches (greater than 400 m square) of its larval host plant, yellow sand-verbena (*Abronia latifolia*), a regionally rare species. Life history characteristics and population sizes remain unknown. The major threat to the sand-verbena moth is the reduction in quantity of sand-verbena plants, which are out-competed when dunes and spits are stabilized by other species. This occurs naturally as other native species invade, but the rate of stabilization is increased at some sites by introduced plants. Direct disturbance by human recreation and development activities, pesticide use, and increased sea levels due to climate change are also threats.

[More Info...](#)

Taylor's Checkerspot

Euphydryas editha taylori

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Endangered	SARA	Schedule 1		

This subspecies of Edith's checkerspot is found from Oregon to British Columbia, where it is limited to southeast Vancouver Island. It requires open grassland with sparse vegetation that includes figwort (*Plantago* sp.) or paintbrush (*Castilleja* sp.), its larval host plants. Sites are typically very dry, rocky areas surrounding Garry oak meadows. Nine of the ten recorded British Columbia populations are believed extirpated. The surviving one is on Hornby Island. Threats include habitat degradation, loss and fragmentation due to urbanization, fire suppression and invasion by introduced plant species,

particularly Scotch broom.

[More Info...](#)

Western Pondhawk

Erythemis collocata

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This dragonfly is generally green-bodied and clear-winged, although males turn bluish with age. It occurs from extreme southern British Columbia through the western United States to California and Texas. Within the Province it known from a number of locations near the south coast and from the north end of Osoyoos Lake. It is usually encountered around marshy lakes and ponds with floating vegetation. The larvae are aquatic, as with other dragonflies. The adult (flying) phase occurs from mid May to early October. Threats include loss of wetlands and riparian habitats to urban and agricultural development.

[More Info...](#)

Audouin's Night-stalking Tiger Beetle

Omus audouini

BC Status	Red	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

This beetle is found from Baja California to British Columbia, where it is limited to southern Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley. They are nocturnal, flightless and predatory, with strong mandibles (jaws) and long legs, useful in running down prey. Larvae (grubs) live in burrows, and feed by waiting at the entrance to capture passing insects.

[More Info...](#)

Blue Dasher

Pachydiplax longipennis

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

These dragonflies often perch with wings cocked down, like this female. They are abundant across the southern half of North America, but are restricted to a small range within British Columbia. Here, they are known only from the north end of Osoyoos Lake in the interior, the lowlands of the southern coast, Vancouver Island, and the Gulf Islands, where they are most abundant. The species is locally common at ponds and lakes with abundant aquatic and riparian vegetation. Both sexes feed by darting out from defended perches to capture smaller insects. Like all dragonfly larvae, the nymphs are aquatic and predatory. The adult flying phase occurs between early June and mid-September. The major threats are likely the loss of wetland and riparian habitat to urban and agricultural development and predation by introduced fish species.

[More Info...](#)

Autumn Meadowhawk

Sympetrum vicinum

BC Status	Blue	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	None	SARA	None		

The name of this dragonfly refers to its late flight period, which occurs from late July to mid November in British Columbia. The species is found across south eastern Canada, the United States east of the Mississippi, and in the Pacific Northwest, with only sporadic records between these areas. It lives in ponds, slow streams and lakes with dense stands of emergent plants. Adults perch in riparian bushes. Females deposit eggs in moss or vegetation very close to the water, and they will not hatch until submerged. Like all dragonfly larvae, the nymphs are aquatic and predatory. The main threats are likely the loss of wetland and riparian habitats to urban and agricultural development and the trampling of wetland edges by livestock.

[More Info...](#)

Extinct or Extirpated

Insects

Island Marble

Euchloe ausonides insulanus

BC Status	Red - Extirpated	BC Wildlife Act	None	Identified Wildlife	No
COSEWIC	Extirpated	SARA	Schedule 1		

This small butterfly was found on Gabriola Island and on eastern Vancouver Island around Victoria and Nanaimo, but was extirpated from British Columbia, probably by 1910. A single population of the *insulanus* subspecies still occurs on the San Juan Islands in the United States. In British Columbia, it inhabited large patches (to 100 ha) of open grasslands and dunes, often near Garry oak savannah. It was last seen in the province sometime before 1910, and was probably extirpated by elimination of its larval food plants (probably rock cress, *Arabis* sp. and peppergrass (*Lepidium* sp.) by overgrazing. Two other subspecies are widespread in the interior of the western United States and Canada.

[More Info...](#)

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