

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code:

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Data Sensitivity:

No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Adopaeoides prittwitzi*
COMMON NAME: Sunrise Skipper, Black-veined Skipperling, Prittwitz's Skipper
SYNONYMS:
FAMILY: HesperIIDae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Plotz *Apaustus*. Stettiner Ent. Ztg., 45:165 (1884).

TYPE LOCALITY: "Mexico".

TYPE SPECIMEN: The type may be in Munich, Berlin or lost. The Plotz types mostly do not exist.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: This is a genus composed of one or two species. Only one species, *Adopaeoides prittwitzi*, occurs in the United States. The other possibly occurs far to the south in Mexico. This species was formerly placed in the genus *Apaustus*.

DESCRIPTION: Wingspan (22-28 mm). The sexes are similar, with the females often covered with a black overlay of scales and the veins more heavily marked black.

Upperside: Orange with black margins and black veining. There is a small black mark at the upper edge of the discal cell that is heavier on females.

Underside: Orange with a creamy white ray extending from the base to the outer margin on the hindwing.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Most skippers are black, brown or gray with markings underneath the hindwing or without black veining on the upperside. *Copaeodes aurantiacus* (Orange Skipperling) is similar but lacks the ray underneath the hindwing and the black veining above. *Copaeodes minimus* (Southern Skipperling) has a whiter ray underneath, lacks the black veining above and is extremely rare north of Mexico in Arizona. *Ancyloxypha arene* (Tropical Least Skipper) has no ray underneath and lacks the black veins above. (Brock and Prchal 2001).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color drawing of upper and underside male (Opler and Wright, 1999, Plate 40)
Color photo of upperside (Bailowitz and Brock, 1991, Appendix A, Plate IV)
B&W photo of upper and underside male (Bailowitz and Brock, 1991, p. 76)
Color photo of upper and underside male (Scott, 1986, Plate 54)
Color photo of upperside female (Scott, 1986, Plate 54)
Color photo of underside (sex undet.) (Pyle, 1981, photo #145)
Color drawing of upper and underside female (Howe, 1975, Plate 89)
Color photos (Brock and Prchal 2001)

TOTAL RANGE: Arizona, the Gray Ranch in Hidalgo Co., New Mexico, then southward into Mexico. Its southern limits in Mexico are not clearly defined.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Presently known from Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz counties.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: The adults visit flowers. Males patrol through submerged grass stands in cienegas. It is unusual to see them flying over dry land.

REPRODUCTION: Not formally reported. Eggs are undescribed. The larvae construct a nest on the host by either tying the grass blade into a tube (early instars) or tying more than one grass blade together (older larvae). They spend their entire developmental period on the plant. In most cases the base of the grass host is submerged in water. The mature larvae are light green with a dark green dorsal stripe. The head is mostly reddish tan. Pupa is bluish-gray with the abdomen mostly a creamy -tan dorsally. Pupation occurs in the nest of the final instar. (Brock and Prchal 2001).

FOOD HABITS: So far only recorded on one grass, *Paspalum disticum*.

FLIGHT PERIOD: Adults are known from mid May (14 May) to mid October (18 Oct.) in a series of broods, probably no more than three at any locality.

HABITAT: Cienegas in arid grassland regions of southeastern Arizona uplands.

ELEVATION:

PLANT COMMUNITY:

POPULATION TRENDS:

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None

STATE STATUS: None

OTHER STATUS: None

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Lowering of water table will be detrimental and perhaps fatal to this species (Brock and Prchal 2001).

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Restore damaged riparian areas adjacent to existing colonies. Establish its total range by undertaking an extensive survey of all potential colony sites. (Brock and Prchal 2001).

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

LITERATURE CITATIONS:

Bailowitz and Brock. 1991. Butterflies of southeastern Arizona. Sonoran Arthropod Studies, Inc.

Brock, J. and S. Prchal. 2001. Sensitive Insect Species of the Coronado National Forest. A Training Project by Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute, Tucson, AZ.

Howe. 1975. The Butterflies of North America. Doubleday.

- Miller and Brown. 1981. A Catalogue/Checklist of the Butterflies of America north of Mexico. The Lepidopterist's Society.
- Opler and Wright. 1999. Western Butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Pyle. 1981. The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies. Knopf.
- Scott. 1986. Butterflies of North America. Stanford Press.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This fragile species bears watching. It appears to be totally reliant upon the cienega habitat that has rapidly dwindled over the past century. It seems to coexist with cattle grazing since the Canelo Cienega has been grazed since the 1800's and the skipper is doing very well there. (Brock and Prchal 2001).

We consider this species the most sensitive of all Arizona butterflies due to the nature of its fragile habitat and its restricted range. (Brock and Prchal 2001).

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