

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

**Invertebrate Abstract**

**Element Code:** IICOL0C050  
**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Amblycheila baroni*  
**COMMON NAME:** A Tiger Beetle  
**SYNONYMS:**  
**FAMILY:** Cicindelidae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Rivers, 1890.

**TYPE LOCALITY:**

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** Four species of *Amblycheila* are found in the western United States.

**DESCRIPTION:** *Amblycheila baroni* is much larger than most tiger beetles, attaining a length over an inch. Like the other *Amblycheila*, it is entirely black and lacks the bright coloration commonly seen in the more common *Cicindela* tiger beetles. *Amblycheila* are flightless.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** *Amblycheila* may be distinguished from other flightless black beetles by its large mandibles and predatory nature.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photos by Kim Wismann and Chip Hedgcock (Brock and Prchal 2001).

**TOTAL RANGE:** Southeastern Arizona, northeastern Sonora, Mexico. Another population occurs in the Big Bend area of Texas and Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Southeastern Arizona including most areas within Coronado National Forest from 3500-5500 feet elevation. Also known from the Babquivari Mountains. (Brock and Prchal 2001).

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** *Amblycheila baroni* is primarily a nocturnal forager, feeding on a variety of insects and other arthropods. The adults are rain-triggered, active in late summer at night and on overcast days and sunny days in comfortable to cool weather. Tom Mason (pers. comm.), Metro Toronto Zoo has maintained this species in captivity. He wrote "The *Amblycheila* (4 specimens) were kept separately because of their size and we soon had a large number of larva. Lydia has not had any trouble with [keeping] them, and other than an annual clean and weekly feeding, they have been ignored. I wouldn't be surprised if our total production for the species is 150+ over the last 5 years." (Brock and Prchal 2001).

**REPRODUCTION:** "The larvae tend to mature at different rates and pupation also seems quite variable. At any one time we will have 2-5 active adults and 40 or so differently sized larva in the container. Adults don't seem to burrow, but they spend a fair amount of time under cover." (Tom Mason, pers. comm.). "*Amblycheila* has been reared in the lab, with the larvae fed all the food they can take, and under these conditions, mature to

pupae in about 24 months. They are long-lived; I have kept adults for over two years and I have verbal reports of them living over three years in captivity.” (Kim Wismann, pers. comm.). (Brock and Prchal 2001).

**FOOD HABITS:** Both larvae and adults are predatory upon insects and other arthropods. “In the field, the larvae live under stones, and likely feed on Staphylinids, ants and other inverts that can and do like to get under stones.” (Kim Wismann, pers. comm.) (Brock and Prchal 2001).

**HABITAT:** Oak grassland, frequently in areas with large rocks.

**ELEVATION:** 3,500 - 5,000 feet (1068-1525 m).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Oak, juniper, mixed grasses.

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Personal communication with several collectors indicates that the species is widespread and relatively common. Gary Dunn stated that they are very common in the Dragoons and can be found “dug in” at the base of large rocks. Kim Wismann wrote “I have certainly seen plenty of *Amblycheila baroni*, and I am certain it is not of concern by any measure. It is widespread and abundant at mid elevations from Sycamore Canyon in the Pajaritos to the Huachucas, and in the area around Willcox. Dave Pearson tells me it is found in the Chiricahuas as well, and into Mexico over an undetermined area. I have found *baroni* in pretty good numbers (as many as 50 in a summer) in pitfall traps, surface active at night and on overcast monsoon afternoons, and raiding my sheets at blacklights, walking off with stray small moths while I was standing there.” (Brock and Prchal 2001).

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None  
**STATE STATUS:** None  
**OTHER STATUS:** Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **LITERATURE CITATIONS:**

- Brock, J., and S. Prchal. 2001. Sensitive Insect Species of the Coronado National Forest. A Training Project by Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute, Tucson, AZ.  
Dunn, Gary. Pers. comm. with S. Prchal, in Brock and Prchal 2001.  
Mason, Tom. Pers. comm. with S. Prchal, in Brock and Prchal 2001.  
USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species List.  
Wismann, Kim. Pers. comm. with S. Prchal, in Brock and Prchal 2001.

### **MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 2001-02 (SP)

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Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2001. *Amblycheila baroni*. Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ. 3 pp.