

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

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code: IILEPC1090

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Lycaena ferrisi*
COMMON NAME: Arizona Copper; Ferris' Copper
SYNONYMS: *Chalceria ferrisi*
FAMILY: Lycaenidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Johnson and Balogh, 1977.

TYPE LOCALITY: Apache Ditch Camp, 13 miles east of McNary, Arizona.

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Generally treated since its description in 1977 as a sibling species of *Lycaena rubidus*. The exception is Scott (1986) who lumped this as a subspecies of *L. rubidus* without explanation.

DESCRIPTION: This species resembles the Ruddy Copper. A small butterfly, reddish with dark spots above, beneath whitish gray with similar spots, orange flush over much of forewing but not showing while at rest. Their wings are shorter and more rounded than the Ruddy Copper and the wingspan is 1 1/8- 1 1/4 inches (28-31 cm). Pm. spots on forewing and hindwing form a complete row; the spots are small and black.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: This species differs superficially from *L. rubidus* by more orange color above and much larger spots. In addition, the wings are shorter and more rounded than *L. rubidus*. In practice locality would distinguish these two.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color photo (Brock in <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/byflyusa/az/866.htm>).
Black and white drawing (Tilden, 1986: pl. 36).

TOTAL RANGE: White Mountains of Apache County, Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: White Mountains of Apache County, Arizona. Most locations from McNary, Maverick and Greer.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: Presumably like other coppers it does not move between habitat patches and widely within patches. It is likely to move along stream corridors especially.

REPRODUCTION: One flight in late July and August. Aestivates then hibernates as an egg. They are larva in the spring, with the pupal stage probably about 10 days.

FOOD HABITS: *Rumex hymenosepalus* is the larval host. The adults feed on flower nectar including that of yellow composites.

HABITAT: Meadows and cienegas near the foodplant *Rumex hymeospalus*.

ELEVATION: Unknown

PLANT COMMUNITY: Unknown

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

STATE STATUS:

OTHER STATUS:

Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: One main threat is that of grasses. Fire suppression results in the invasion of meadow habitats and other openings by dense conifer forests. Eventual warm season intense fires could be overly intense and eliminate some populations or permanently alter previously suitable habitats.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Unknown

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: There are only a few known populations and the study for conservation is a required first step.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Unknown

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 6, 2002).
- Tilden, J.W. 1986. A Field Guide to Western Butterflies, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA, pp. 184.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USGS, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Available at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/dist/lepid/byflyusa/usa/866.htm>.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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