

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

**Invertebrate Abstract**

**Element Code:** IILEP43020

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Piruna polingii*  
**COMMON NAME:** Four-spotted Skipperling; Spotted Skipperling; Poling's Skipperling  
**SYNONYMS:**  
**FAMILY:** HesperIIDae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Barnes, 1900.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Huachuca Mountains, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties, Arizona.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** This is one of five species in this genus, and one of three species in Arizona.

**DESCRIPTION:** The upperside is a glossy dark brown with small transparent white spots on the forewing and 2-3 white spots on the hindwing. The underside is reddish brown with the forewing spots repeated and 3 silver median spots on the hindwing. Their wingspan is 1-1 1/8 inches (2.5-3.9 cm).

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** The ventral forewing spots and the three silver median spots on the hindwing are identifying characteristics.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo (Opler in <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/AZ/533.htm>)  
Color photo (Nearctica in <http://www.nearctica.com/butter/plate26/Ppolingi.htm>)  
Black & white photo (Tilden 1986:Pl 44)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Central New Mexico and Arizona south to Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Central Arizona south to Mexico.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** Adults rest with their wings closed, but bask with the hindwings open wide and forewings open to about 45 degrees. Caterpillars live and feed within nests of webbed leaves. The adults fly in summer, mid-July to mid-September. Fully-grown caterpillars hibernate. They have also been seen congregating in numbers on moist cliffsides.

**REPRODUCTION:** There is a single rainy season brood between June and August. It occurs mostly in July north of the Gila River and slightly later south of it. The males patrol to find receptive females.

**FOOD HABITS:** Caterpillars likely feed on a native grass. Nothing is confirmed for the area but *Dactylis glomerata* (Poaceae) is strongly suspected. Adults feed on the nectar of various flowers including yellow composites.

**HABITAT:** Moist woodland openings with lush vegetation, meadows, ravines and streamsides in the mountains.

**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:** Unknown

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** Unknown

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** The populations need to be located, monitored and their habitat, foodplant and conservation needs assessed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Unknown

**SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION****REFERENCES:**

- Bailowitz, R.A. et al. 1991. Butterflies of Southeast Arizona, Sonoran Arthropod Studies, Inc, Tucson Arizona, pp.70-71.
- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: May 16, 2002).
- Nearctica. Available at <http://www.nearctica.com>.
- Tilden, J.W. et al. 1986. A Field Guide to Western Butterflies, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston MA, pp247-248.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USGS, Available at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/AZ/533.htm>

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 2002-05-18 (AMS)

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