

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code: IILEP63011

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Pseudocopaeodes eunus eunus*  
**COMMON NAME:** Wandering Skipper; Alkali Skipper  
**SYNONYMS:**  
**FAMILY:** Hesperidae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Edwards, 1881.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** For the species *Pseudocopaeodes eunus* it is the Bottoms of the Kern River near Bakersfield.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** Unknown

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** There are 4 subspecies in this species one of which occurs in Arizona.

**DESCRIPTION:** For the species of *Pseudocopaeodes eunus* they have a wingspan of 1-1 ¼ inches (2.5-3.2 cm). The upperside is bright brownish orange to yellowish orange with dark narrow borders and dark vein ends. The male forewing has a narrow black stigma, which runs diagonally. The underside is dull yellow and the veins may or may not be dark. There are usually 2 pale rays on the hind wing.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** There are usually 2 pale rays on the hind wing.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo of species (*In* <http://www.nearctica.com/butter/plate27/Peunus.htm>).

**TOTAL RANGE:** Great Basin in Nevada, Mono Basin in S San Joaquin Valley (Kings Co.) south to San Diego Co., California. Also occurs in Baja California and mainland Mexico. Perhaps also occurs in Utah and Arizona.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Unknown.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** They have several flights from April to September. Skippers in contrast to true butterflies, which hold both wings either vertically or horizontally at rest, often rest with the forewings open at a 45-degree angle and hind wings horizontal. Their rapid, direct and bouncing flight is aptly suggested by the name “skipper”.

**REPRODUCTION:** Unknown

**FOOD HABITS:** For the species the caterpillar host plant is Desert salt grass (*Distichlis spicata* var. *spicata*). The adults feed on flower nectar.

**HABITAT:** Inland stands of the foodplant desert saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata* var. *spicata*), occurring in desert seeps or around alkalai flats. Very local.

**ELEVATION:** Unknown

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Unknown

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None (USDI, FWS 1996)  
[C2 USDI, FWS 1994]  
[C2 USDI, FWS 1991]  
[C2 USDI, FWS 1989]

**STATE STATUS:** None

**OTHER STATUS:** Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Unknown

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** Unknown

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Unknown

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Unknown

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

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

**Revised:** 2002-06-21 (AMS)

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