

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code: IILEX13060

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Proserpinus terlooii*

COMMON NAME: Terloo's Sphinx

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Sphingidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Edwards, 1875. Proc. California Acad. Sci. 6:90.

TYPE LOCALITY: Near Mazatlan, Mexico

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are only two species in this genus in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: Wingspan is 1 5/8- 1 7/8 inches (4.2-4.8 cm). The upper side of the forewing is uniform olive green with a darker medium band. The upper side of the hind wing is red with an olive green border. For this family, the antennae are distinctive, usually lamellate ventrally or bi to quadripectinate, tapering toward the apex, which is upturned or hooked. The caterpillars have a large hornlike projection at the end of the abdomen that gives the caterpillar a formidable appearance although it is harmless.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: *P. vega* has a very large and dark basal patch as the fore wing meets the thorax that is lacking in *P. terlooii*. There are also three prominent longitudinal stripes on the thorax of *P. vega* that are lacking in *P. terlooii*. (<http://www.silkmoths.bizland.com/pvega.htm>).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color photo (In <http://www.silkmoths.bizland.com/pterloot.htm>)
Color photo of caterpillars (Singer in <http://nitro.biosci.arizona.edu/zEEB/butterflies/brown.html>)

TOTAL RANGE: Southeastern Arizona south at least to Mazatlann, Sinaloa, Mexico.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Santa Cruz, Pima, and Cochise Counties.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: As an immature it hibernates/aestivates. The pupae probably wiggle to surface from subterranean chambers just prior to eclosion. They are strong fliers with a very rapid wing beat. This makes them resemble hummingbirds or large bees. These moths lack hearing organs or tympana.

REPRODUCTION: Females call in the males with a pheromone released from a gland at the tip of the abdomen. Eggs hatch about 10 days after the female deposits them on the hose plants. The newly hatched caterpillars eat their eggshells. Adults fly as a single brood in July and August in southeastern Arizona. Larvae feed in late July and August, then pupate in shallow underground burrows and emerge the following summer.

FOOD HABITS: As an adult it is a nectarivore. As an immature it is a herbivore. Caterpillars feed on wetleaf spiderling *Boerhaavia coccinea*. Adults fly in the afternoon, nectaring from flowers.

HABITAT: Desert scrub, oak woodland, mixed oak-juniper woodland.

ELEVATION:

PLANT COMMUNITY:

POPULATION TRENDS:

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None

STATE STATUS:

OTHER STATUS:

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Population status and habitat needs should be studied.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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- Singer, M. 1997. Available: <http://nitro.biosci.arizona.edu/zEEB/butterflies/brown.html>.
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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Revised: 2004-12-03 (AMS)

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