

RARE AND SENSITIVE INSECTS OF MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO

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COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

CICINDELIDAE (Tiger beetles)

Amblycheila picolominii Reiche

Kippenhan, M. G. 1994. The tiger beetles (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae) of Colorado. Transactions of the American Entomological Society, 120: 1-86. indicates that Mesa Verde National Park is the only known locality for this rare beetle in Colorado. It is also known from Arizona and New Mexico. Adults prefer rocky slopes, individuals having been collected from Chapin Mesa.

CERAMBYCIDAE (Longhorned beetles)

Additional information for these beetles can be found in Heffern, D. J. 1998. Insects of Western North America. 1. A Survey of the Cerambycidae (Coleoptera), or Longhorned beetles, of Colorado. Contributions of C. P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Colorado State University. 32 pp. Most of these species have been collected from the North Rim and Chapin Mesa of the Park.

Aneflomorpha parowana Casey

Larvae hosts are unknown.

Centrodera minima Linsley and Chemsak

This species was described from 3 specimens collected in 1955 from Mesa Verde National Park. *Pinus* spp. may be larval hosts. An additional specimen is known from Colorado National Monument, Mesa County, Colorado.

Eucrossus villicornis LeConte

Larval host are *Pinus* spp.

Mecas bicallosa (LeConte)

Larvae and adults hosts are *Artemisia tridentata*.

Methia mormona Linell

This rare species is known from the Park. Larval hosts include *Juniperus*.

Moneilema semipunctatum LeConte
Larval hosts are *Opuntia* spp.

Semanotus juniperi (Fisher)
The larval host is *Juniperus osteosperma*.

Tetropium parallelum Casey
The larval host may be *Abies*.

MELOIDAE (Blister Beetles)
Additional information can be found in Werner, F. G., W. R. Enns, and F. H. Parker. 1966. The Meloidae of Arizona. Agricultural Experiment Station. University of Arizona. Technical Bulletin 175. 96 pp.

Lytta fulvipennis LeConte
A rare species. Adults are known to feed on poppy.

Lytta mutilata (Horn)
Adults of this species has been recorded feeding on *Euphorbia* and Dodder in Morefield Canyon.

RHIPICERIDAE (Cedar beetles)
Sandalus porosus LeConte
Larvae of this family are underground parasites of cicada nymphs, common insects of the Park (especially *Platypedia putnami* Uhler (Putnam's Cicada and *Okanagana* spp.)). Adults were collected by beating foliage of Gambel oak or netting flying adults in the Soda Canyon area.

TENEBRIONIDAE (Darkling beetles)
Helops sp.
The species apparently is undescribed. Found along the Morefield Canyon.

HYMENOPTERA (Wasps, bees and ants)

POMPILIDAE (Spider Wasps)
Additional information is available in Evans, H. E. 1997. Spider wasps of Colorado (Hymenoptera, Pompilidae): An Annotated Checklist. Great Basin Naturalist 57: 189-197 and Evans, H. E. 2000. Three new species of *Dipogon* Fox (Subgenus *Dipogon*) (Hymenoptera: Pompilidae) from Central and Western North America. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington. 102: 1010-1013.

Aporus luxus (Banks)
Members of this genus use trap-door spiders as prey.

Calopompilus pyrrhomelas (Walker)
Little is known about this wasp.

Dipogon anasazi Evans
Recently described from the Park, Soda Canyon, usually this genus is associated with wooded areas. Adult females use pre-existing cavities in wood as a nesting site. Errant spiders are used as prey

Priocnemis oregona Banks
These spider wasps prey on ground dwelling spiders and nest in preexisting cavities.

DIPTERA (Flies)

ASILIDAE (Robberflies)

Dicolonus pulchrum Adisoemarto and Wood
This species was originally described from Lake Tahoe, California, and also known from Yosemite, California; a remarkable range extension. Specimens were collected by sweeping vegetation at the bottom of Soda Canyon.

LEPIDOPTERA

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BUTTERFLIES

PAPILIONIDAE-SWALLOWTAIL FAMILY

Papilio indra nr. kaibabensis (D. Bauer)—Kaibab Swallowtail.

The typical subspecies is known only from Grand Canyon National Park and is known from very few localities overall. The one specimen from Mesa Verde is intermediate between subspecies *kaibabensis* and subspecies *minori*. Location in park unknown but food plants grow on cliffs or steep rocky slopes.

Pteryxia petraea (Family Apiaceae) is the host for *kaibabensis* and the host for subspecies *minori* is *Lomatium eastwoodiae* and possibly *L. grayi*.

Collectors have been prosecuted for searching for caterpillars in national parks and removing both caterpillars and host plants!

LYCAENIDAE-GOSSAMERWING FAMILY

Callophrys comstocki (C. Henne) –Desert Green Hairstreak.

Known only from the southern Great Basin and northern Colorado Plateau. The

species is known from relatively few locations. Adults found nectaring on dandelion on flats in Morefield Canyon. Known host is Wright's buckwheat (*Eriogonum wrightii*), but the buckwheat plants observed by Opler in Morefield Canyon looked like another species.

Euphilotes spaldingi Barnes and McDunnough—Spalding's Dotted-Blue
Known from relatively few specific localities in the 4 corners states, usually in Pinyon-Juniper habitat. Location within park unknown. Caterpillar eats only Racemose buckwheat (*Eriogonum racemosum*).

NYMPHALIDAE-BRUSHFOOT FAMILY

Phyciodes batesi anasazi Scott—Tawny Crescent

Known from very few locations, mainly within a few miles of the mainstem Colorado River or principal drainages. Mesa Verde is the southeasternmost occurrence of the butterfly. Butterfly occurs on steep slopes near permanent or intermittent streams. Caterpillars eat species of asters.

MOTHS

TORTRICIDAE-LEAFROLLER FAMILY

Henricus sp.-no common name.

This may be an undescribed species. It likely eats leaves of Gambel oak and probably ranges south to southeastern Arizona. Mesa Verde is the only known Colorado location. Adults were found at Park Point. Caterpillars eat leaves of Gambel's Oak (*Quercus gambellii*).

GEOMETRIDAE-INCHWORM FAMILY

Antepione indiscretata (Edwards) –No common name

Mesa Verde is one of two Colorado locations. Ranges south to southeastern Arizona. Host plant unknown.

Carphoides incopriaria (Hulst)

Mesa Verde is only Colorado location. Collected on Chapin Mesa near Natural Resource Building. Ranges south to southeastern Arizona. Host plant unknown.

Hydriomena barnesata Swett

Mesa Verde is one of two Colorado locations. Ranges south to Sierra Madre Occidentale of Mexico. Host plant is likely Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambellii*).

Itame undescribed species

Known from few localities. Being described by DC Ferguson. In park collected near Natural Resource Building on Chapin Mesa. Host plant unknown.

Nemoria caerulescens Prout

Known from less than 5 locations in the Southwest.

Philtraea utahensis

Known from only 2 locations in Colorado. More widespread in southeastern Utah.

SATURNIIDAE-WILD SILK MOTH FAMILY

Anisota oslari Rothschild

Mesa Verde is only location in Colorado. Location within park unknown. Host plant is Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*). Ranges south to southeastern Arizona.

PROMINENT FAMILY

Datana neomexicana Doll

Mesa Verde is only location in Colorado. Location in park unknown. Host plant is not reported but may be Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*). Known from very few locations in west Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Oligocentria nr. *alpica*

Known from only two locations in Colorado and less than ten localities. One specimen collected at mile 2 in Morefield Canyon. Host plant is unknown. This is an undescribed species.

ARCTIIDAE-TIGER MOTH FAMILY

Grammia undescribed species –Bowman's Tiger Moth

A species being described by D.C. Ferguson. Known from less than 5 locations. A few specimens were collected near Natural Resource Building on Chapin Mesa. Larvae probably eat a variety of low herbaceous plants. Only other Colorado locations in Delta and Mesa Counties, Colorado.

NOCTUIDAE-OWLET MOTH FAMILY

Catocala coccinata Grote - Scarlet Underwing

Widespread in East, but a disjunct population in Colorado has only two known locations in Mesa Verde and Douglas County. Caterpillars eat various oaks—likely Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) in the park. Mesa Verde occurrence is an unexpected isolated western outlier.

Oncocnemis sp. A, near *extranea*

An undescribed identified by Dr. J.D. Lafontaine of Agriculture Canada, Ottawa. Known from very few locations. Collected near Natural Resource Building on Chapin Mesa. Host plant is unknown.

Plagiomimicus dimidiata (Grote)

One of only two Colorado locations for this rare more southern species. Host plant unknown.

Provia argentata (Barnes and McDunnough)

Mesa Verde is the only known Colorado location for this regionally restricted species. Collected in park at Cedar Tree Tower on Chapin Mesa and at Kodak House Overlook on Averill Mesa. Host plant unknown.