Alaska Natural Heritage Program
Alaska Center for Conservation Science
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

Alaska Natural Heritage Program Conservation Status Report

Lycaena phlaeas - Linnaeus, 1761

Common Name: American Copper

ELCODE: IILEPC1010	**Taxonomic Serial No.:** 777788

Synonyms:

Taxonomy Notes: At least five subspecies of *Lycaena phlaeas* are referenced for North America (Pelham 2008). Specimens from Alaska correspond to *Lycaena phlaeas arethusa* (Dod, 1907) and an unnamed form north of the Brooks Range (Philip & Ferris 2016). The majority of butterfly records were determined only to species. We therefore only treat this butterfly at the species level for conservation assessment while recognizing that currently Alaskan specimens are considered to fall under (name of subspecies) - as treated by Ferris 2016. NatureServe concept reference: Opler & Warren (2002).

Report last updated – 21 May 2017

Conservation Status

G5 S4	ASRS: not yet ranked

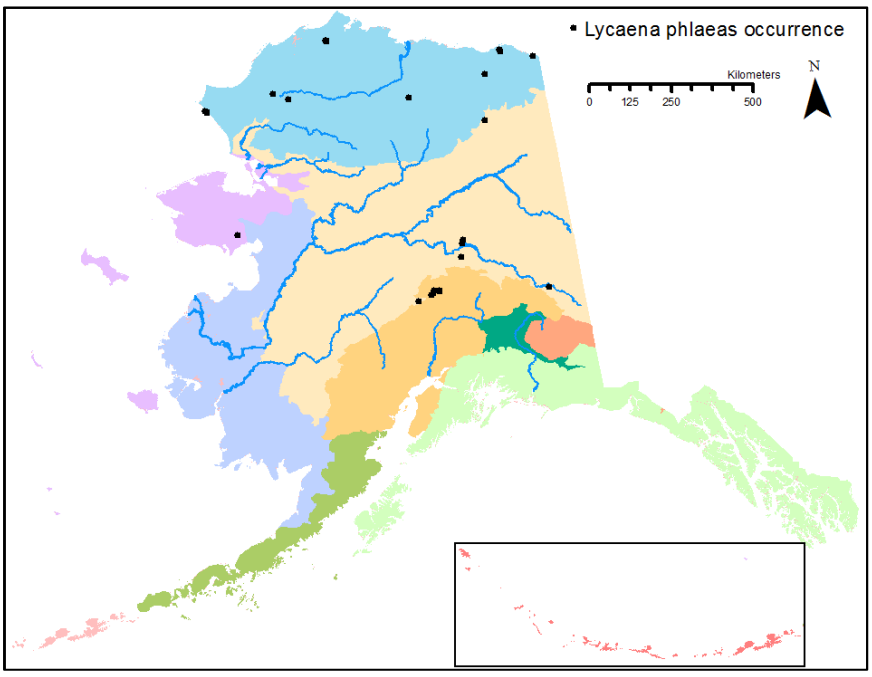
Occurrences, Range

Number of Occurrences: number of museum records: 133 (KWP 2017, UAM 2017), number of EOs: 26

AK Range Extent: 658,946 km^2

Occupancy 4 km^2 grid cells: 27

Nowacki Ecoregions: Arctic Coastal Plain, Brooks Range, Seward Peninsula through the interior to the Alaska Range;



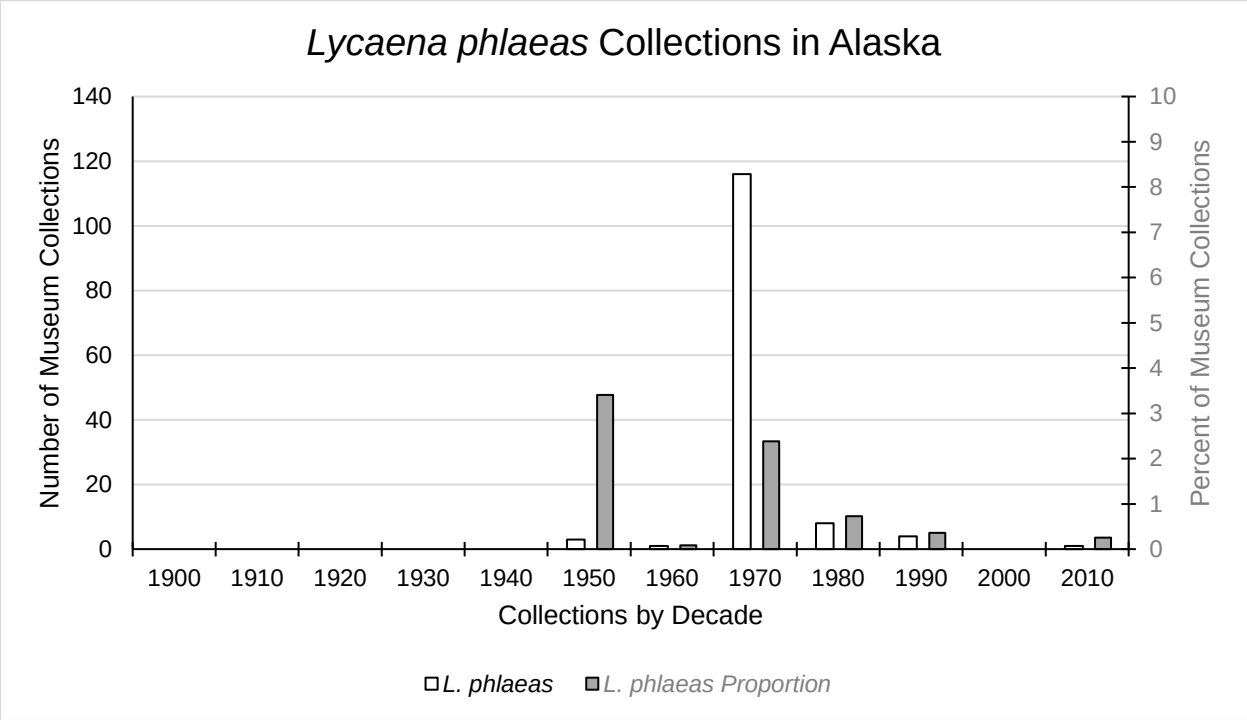
encompassing Arctic Tundra, Bering Tundra, Intermontane Boreal, and Alaska Range Ecoregions.

North American Distribution: Arctic Alaska and Canada south through the mountains to Wyoming; populations in eastern North America likely represent an introduction from Scandinavia and range from Nova Scotia west though the Great Lakes states and south to Arkansas and Tennessee (BAMONA 2017).

Trends

Short-term: Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change).

Long-term: Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change).



Threats

Scope and Severity: Most threats (including development, pollution, biological resource use, etc.) are anticipated to be negligible in scope and unknown in severity. Climate change and severe weather has the potential to affect populations; however we cannot anticipate the scope or severity of such impacts.

Comments:

Ecology

Habitat: Bog, stream benches, and moist rocky slopes where hostplants occur in Alaska (Philip & Ferris 2016).

Known Plant Hosts: Members of the Polygonaceae, including *Rumex*, and *Oxyria digyna* (Philip & Ferris 2016, BAMONA 2017).

Life History: Flight period is late July into August. Males typically perch or patrol to intercept females. Females lay eggs on host plant stems or leaves. Overwinter hibernation occurs as pupae (Philip & Ferris 2016, BAMONA 2017).

Intrinsic Vulnerability: Unknown.

Literature

BAMONA. 2017. Butterflies and Moths of North America. Attributes of *Lycaena phlaeas*. http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Lycaena-phlaeas. Accessed 21 May 2017.

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