Alaska Natural Heritage Program
Conservation Status Report

*Carterocephalus palaemon* – *Pallas, 1771*

**Common Name:** Arctic Skipper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELCODE: IILEP42010</th>
<th>Taxonomic Serial No.: 188607</th>
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**Synonyms:** *Papilio brontes* ([Schiffermüller], 1775), *Papilio paniscus* Fabricius, 1775


**Report last updated – 16 May 2017**

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**Conservation Status**

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<th>G5 S5</th>
<th>ASRS: not yet ranked</th>
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**Occurrences, Range**

*Number of Occurrences:*
number of museum records: 444 (KWP 2017, UAM 2017), number of EOs: 82

*AK Range Extent*: 644,013 km²

*Occupancy 4 km² grid cells*: 82

*Nowacki Ecoregions:*
Central Alaska: southern Brooks Range south throughout interior Alaska to the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island and Bristol Bay; encompassing Arctic Tundra, Intermontane Boreal, Alaska Range Transition, Copper River Basin, and Coastal Rainforest Ecoregions.

*North American Distribution:* Alaska south along the western North American mountains to northern California and Wyoming, east through Canada to Newfoundland and along the Great Lakes States to New England (BAMONA 2017). Also occurs in the Palearctic.
**Trends**

*Short-term*: Proportion collected has declined significantly (>10% change) since the 2000’s; however, the 2000’s had a relatively large collection that may represent a targeted study rather than an increase in population. We therefore consider the short-term trend to be “relatively stable” in the rank calculator to avoid over-emphasis on the subnational rarity rank.

*Long-term*: The proportion collected has fluctuated since the 1950’s (3% to 21%), but with the exception of the 2000’s has stayed relatively 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. This species is often associated with anthropogenic openings in forests such as roadsides and trails (Philip & Ferris 2016) and may benefit from some degree of development. Climate change and severe weather has the potential to affect populations; however we cannot anticipate the scope or severity of such impacts.
**Ecology**

*Habitat:* Open areas in boreal forests, including wetland margins, meadows, streamsides, roads, and trails (Philip & Ferris 2016, BAMONA 2017).

*Host Plants:* Grasses including *Calamagrostis purpurascens* and *Bromus* species and probably others.

*Life History:* Flight in June. Males typically perch on low objects or patrol openings in search of females. Single eggs are deposited on leaves of the host plant, and the larvae feed in nests of leaves tied together; caterpillars overwinter in their nests (Philip & Ferris 2016, BAMONA 2017).

*Intrinsic Vulnerability:* Unknown

**Literature**


