

Alaska Natural Heritage Program

Conservation Status Report

Carterocephalus palaemon – Pallas, 1771

Common Name: Arctic Skipper

ELCODE: IILEP42010	Taxonomic Serial No.: 188607
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Synonyms: *Papilio brontes* ([Schiffermüller], 1775), *Papilio paniscus* Fabricius, 1775

Taxonomy Notes: NatureServe concept reference: Opler & Warren (2002).

Report last updated – 16 May 2017

Conservation Status

G5 S5	ASRS: not yet ranked
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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

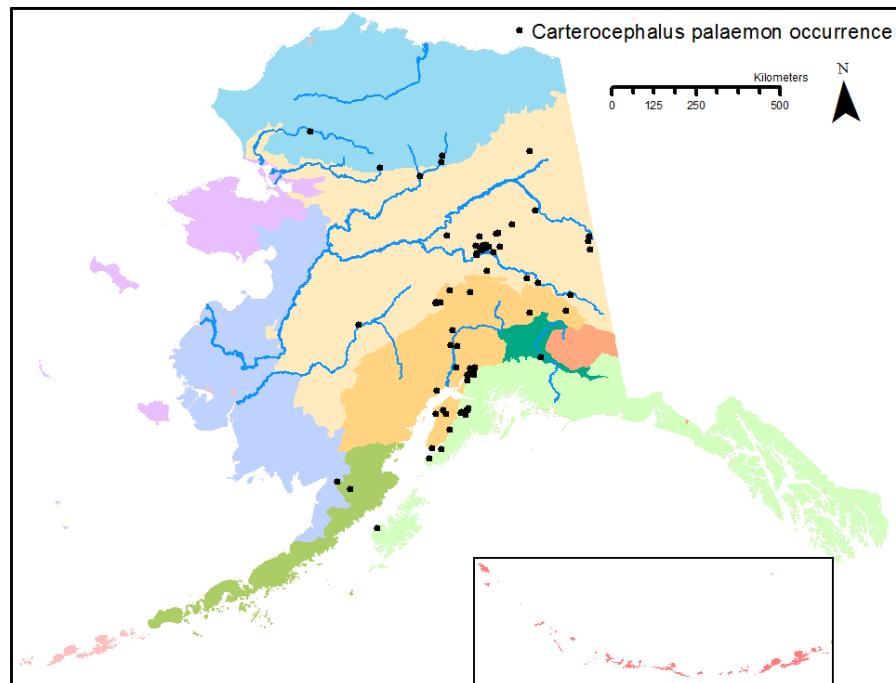
Occupancy 4 km² grid cells: 82

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.

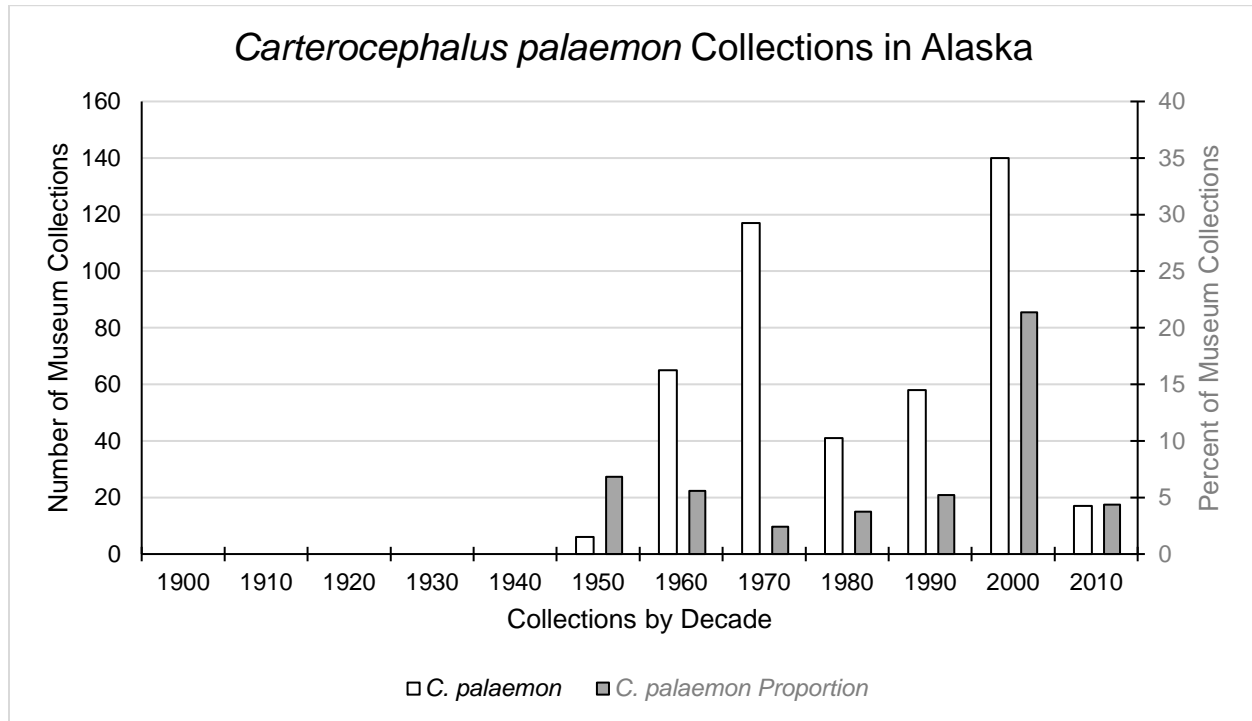
North American Distribution: Alaska south along the western North American mountains to northern California and Wyoming, east through Canada to Newfoundland and along the Great Lakes States to New England (BAMONA 2017). Also occurs in the Palearctic.



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

BAMONA. 2017. Butterflies and Moths of North America. Attributes of *Carterocephalus palaemon*. <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Carterocephalus-palaemon>. Accessed 16 May 2017.

KWP, Kenelm W. Philip Lepidoptera Collection. 2017. Date Accessed 24 April 2017.

Opler, P. A., and A. D. Warren. 2002. Butterflies of North America. 2. Scientific Names List for Butterfly Species of North America, north of Mexico. C.P. Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity, Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. 79 pp.

Philip, K. W. and C. D. Ferris. 2016. Butterflies of Alaska: A Field Guide. Second Edition. Alaska Entomological Society. Clifford D. Ferris. Laramie, Wyoming. 110 pp.

UAM Arctos Museum of the North. 2017. Date Accessed 24 April 2017.