

Alaska Natural Heritage Program

Conservation Status Report

Celastrina lucia (W. Kirby, 1837)

Common Name: Azure Butterfly

ELCODE: IILEPG0100	Taxonomic Serial No.: 777891
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Synonyms: *Celastrina argiolus* subsp. *lucia*

Taxonomy Notes: Two subspecies of *Celastrina lucia* are referenced for North America: *Celastrina lucia lucia* (W. Kirby, 1837), and *Celastrina lucia lumarco* (Scott, 2006) (Pelham 2008). 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 S5	ASRS: not yet ranked
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Occurrences, Range

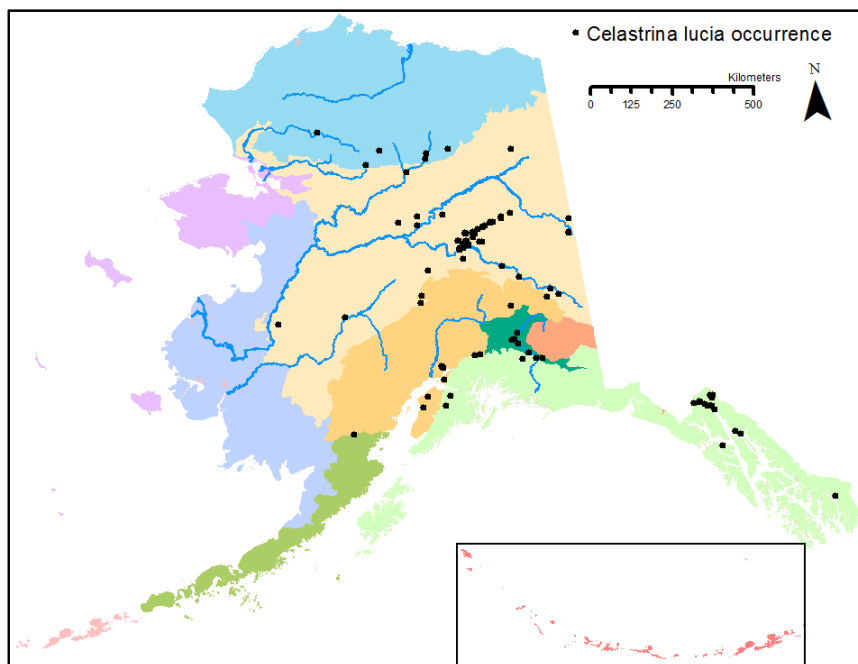
Number of Occurrences:

number of museum records:
538 (UAM 2017), number of
EOs: 114

AK Range Extent: 1,046,175
km²

Occupancy 4 km² grid cells:
112

Nowacki Ecoregions: Brooks
Range through interior
Alaska to the Kenai
Peninsula and southeastern
Alaska; encompassing Arctic
Tundra, Intermontane Boreal,
Alaska Range Transition, and
Coastal Rainforest
Ecoregions.

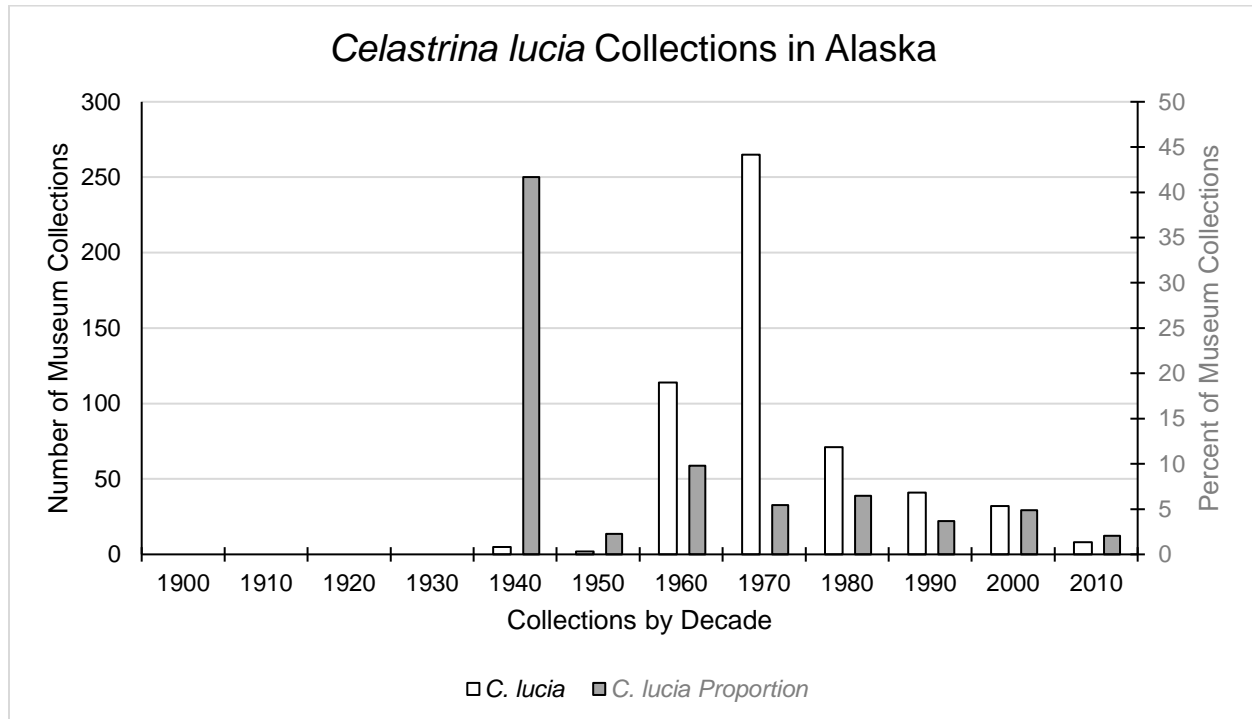


North American Distribution: Alaska southeast through Canada to the central Atlantic (Scott 1986).

Trends

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

Long-term: Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change) since the 1950's. The peak in proportion collected during the 1940's is likely a byproduct of small butterfly collection size (12 collections) during that decade.



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: Open areas in woodlands to the edge of treeless tundra (Philip & Ferris 2016).

Host Plants: A wide range of host plants have been documented for this species across its range, including members of the Rosaceae, Ericaceae, Cornaceae, Fabaceae, Saxifragaceae, and Asteraceae; its host plants in Alaska are not known (Philip & Ferris 2016).

Life History: Flight period from late May and June. Males patrol for females near their host-plants; winter hibernation is as pupa in Alaska; larvae are often associated with ants (Philip & Ferris 2016).

Intrinsic Vulnerability: Unknown

Literature

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.

Pelham, J. P. 2008. A catalogue of the butterflies of the United States and Canada with a complete bibliography of the descriptive and systematic literature. Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera, vol. 40. xiv + 658.

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.