

SPECIES PROFILE

Barrens Itame

Itame sp. 1

Federal Listing: Not listed

State Listing: Not listed

Global Rank: G3G4

State Rank: S1S2

Author: NHFG

ELEMENT 1: DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

1.1 Habitat Description

The Barrens itame occupies pine barrens (NatureServe 2005), particularly those areas that have been recently burned (Mello 1998). This species also occurs in Appalachian oak-pine woodlands composed of a dense scrub oak understory and greater canopy closure (NatureServe 2005). Larval host plants have not yet been documented, though captive specimens have been reared using scrub oak (Wagner et al. 2003), and various heath species (Ericaceae) are plausible food items (USAF 2002, Mello 1998). For a detailed habitat description refer to the pine barrens habitat profile.

1.2 Justification

The Barrens itame, along with other pine barren specialists, serves as an indicator of ecological condition. In the absence of disturbance or management, Barrens itame populations decline and become increasingly vulnerable to extirpation. Declines are likely a reflection of the loss of the vital compositional and structural elements of pine barrens (e.g., scrub oak understory) with increasing canopy closure.

1.3 Protection and Regulatory Status

NHNHB (2005) identified the Barrens itame as an important species, but it is currently not protected.

1.4 Population and Habitat Distribution

The range of the Barrens itame extends from Maine to Virginia, and west to New York and Pennsylvania. Most occurrences are in high quality pine barrens of New Jersey. Barrens itame are believed to be more widespread in the Cape Cod and Islands region of Massachusetts, and probably on Long Island, New York (NatureServe 2005). In New Hampshire, specimens were collected in 1985 and 1995 at the West Branch Pine Barrens Reserve in Tamworth. For details regarding habitat distribution, see pine barrens habitat profile.

1.5 Town Distribution Map

A map is provided.

1.6 Habitat Map

See pine barrens habitat profile

1.7 Sources of Information

Technical field reports, agency data, scientific journal articles, and element occurrence databases were used to determine habitat and distribution of the Barrens itame.

1.8 Extent and Quality of Data

The quality and extent of the data for the Barrens itame in New Hampshire are limited to the recorded sightings in Tamworth. Other areas where pine barrens occur in New Hampshire have not been surveyed for the Barrens itame.

1.9 Distribution Research

Additional surveys should be conducted to determine distribution, habitat requirements, and life

history traits of the Barrens itame. Current populations should be monitored for trends, while new sites containing key habitat elements should be surveyed for new occurrence data.

ELEMENTS 2-4

See the Karner blue butterfly profile and pine barrens profile

ELEMENT 5: REFERENCES

5.1 Literature

United States Air Force (USAF). 2002. Threatened and Endangered Species and Fire Management at the Cape Cod Airforce Station, Massachusetts.

Wagner, D.L., M.W. Nelson, D.F. Schweitzer. 2003. Shrubland Lepidoptera of southern New England and southeastern New York: ecology, conservation, and management. *Forest Ecology and Management* 185:95-112.

5.2 Data Sources

NatureServe. 2005. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 4.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. Accessed 2005 March 30.

New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau. 2005. Database of rare species and exemplary natural community occurrences in New Hampshire. Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands. Concord, New Hampshire, USA.

Distribution of Pine Barrens Itame in New Hampshire

Distribution
Known



Known = verified observations as reported in the NH
Natural Heritage Bureau's Element Occurrence
Database.

