

State of the Fireflies of the United States and Canada:



Pointy-Lobed Firefly

THREATENED & NEAR THREATENED SPECIES PROFILE

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This species profile was compiled based on information gathered from the IUCN Red List assessments and augmented with new information that has become available since its publication. Full Red List assessments (including range maps) are available at www.iucnredlist.org/.

KEY TO SPECIES PROFILE

Conservation Status

IUCN—Red List ranking

NS—NatureServe Global (G), National (N), and Subnational (S) Conservation Status Rank:

GX NX SX	Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery
GH NH SH	Known from only historical occurrences but still some hope of rediscovery
G1 N1 S1	At very high risk of extinction or collapse
G2 N2 S2	At high risk of extinction or collapse
G3 N3 S3	At moderate risk of extinction or collapse
G4 N4 S4	At fairly low risk of extinction or collapse
G5 N5 S5	At very low risk or extinction or collapse
GNA NNA SNA	A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species or ecosystem is not a suitable target for conservation activities
GNR NNR SNR	Global rank not yet assessed
GU NU SU	Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends
G#G# N#N# S#S#	Numeric range rank (e.g., G2G3, G1G3) is used to indicate uncertainty about the exact status of a taxon or ecosystem type

SGCN—Species of Greatest Conservation Need, legal designation by state

US ESA—Species' legal status under the US Endangered Species Act

Male Size Ranges

The documented size range for males of each species has been provided in the profiles as follows:

9–10 mm



With the smallest size in grey () superimposed over the largest size in green (). When printed at 100% scale, the bars match the lengths provided.

Habitat Threats

Pollution	Agriculture	Habitat Loss, Degradation, Fragmentation	Climate & Severe Weather
Excess light	Crop systems	Habitat loss	Climate change
Energy & mining	Livestock & pasture	Trampling / crushing	Severe storms & flooding
Pesticides & run-off		Invasive species	Rising temperatures
		Water quality	Drought
			Sea level rise

Photinus acuminatus

Pointy-Lobed Firefly



< **ENDANGERED** >

EN



Type locality habitat documented with the first observations of the species on Mount Pisgah in North Carolina [above]; adult male observed on a leaf [below]. (Photos: Jim Liestman / Flickr [above]; James E. Lloyd / University of Florida [below and on cover].)

Conservation Status

- » **IUCN:** EN
- » **NS:** G1, SNA (AL), SNR (FL, GA, NC, OH, SC), SU (MS)
- » **SGCN:** South Carolina
- » **US ESA:** Not listed

Distribution

USA—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina



7–8 mm



Description

The pointy-lobed firefly is a habitat specialist found in bog and marsh habitats. This species has a wide range but appears to have been extirpated from some areas. It has been reported from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, and South Carolina, although it may be more widespread but overlooked. Populations in Florida and South Carolina may be extinct.

Habitat loss and light pollution are the leading threats to this species.

Flash Pattern & Activity Period

Adults are active for a short period around dusk in June and July. This species has a generic flash pattern with males emitting bright yellow, fast flashes every two seconds. Females respond with their own flashes. Unlike most firefly species, displaying males do not congregate together but instead scatter out across a large area. Because they often co-occur with other firefly species, this can make it difficult to distinguish them.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Seconds
♂	█		█		█			→ Short single flash repeated every 2 seconds
♀		█		█		█		→ Short response flash following each male flash