State of the Fireflies of the United States and Canada:



Amber Comet 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 SÚ	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:



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

Commercial &

development

development

Urban & residential

Habitat Threats

Pollution Excess light Energy & mining

Agriculture Crop

systems Livestock & pasture

loss Trampling / crushing

Habitat



Water quality

Habitat Loss, Degradation, Fragmentation Climate & Severe Weather Climate





Severe storms & flooding Rising

temperatures





This species' habitat along the Devil's River in Val Verde County, Texas [above]; a pinned specimen [bottom]. (Photos: Ben Pfeiffer [above]; Mike Quinn / BugGuide [below and on cover].)

Conservation Status

» **IUCN:** EN (tentative, unpublished)

» **NS:** G1; SNR (TX)

» SGCN: None

» US ESA: Not listed

Distribution

USA—Texas; MEX—Tabasco

9.6–13 mm

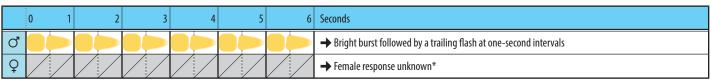


The amber comet firefly has been reported from several different habitat types: over a marsh in Tabasco, Mexico; in mixed semi-arid cenizo and guajillo brushland with limestone river basins in Texas; and in the Texas Hill Country where the dominant vegetation is oak and cedar brush. This species has not been found in Texas since 1940, despite concerted survey effort, and much of the known range of this species in Mexico has been converted to sugarcane plantations and cattle pasture. Surveys are critically needed to determine if the species remains extant.

Threats to this species are not well documented but likely include light pollution and habitat degradation due to agricultural and urban development.

Flash Pattern & Activity Period

Adults are active after dark from May-August. This species displays an initial explosive amber flash, followed by quick one second upward-trailing flashes.



^{*} Due to the aggressive mimicry utilized by some "femme fatale" firefly species—some of which have been documented using multiple flash-pattern responses—it has been difficult to determine which flash-patterns are used to attract mates or, alternately, to lure in unsuspecting prey males from other firefly species.