

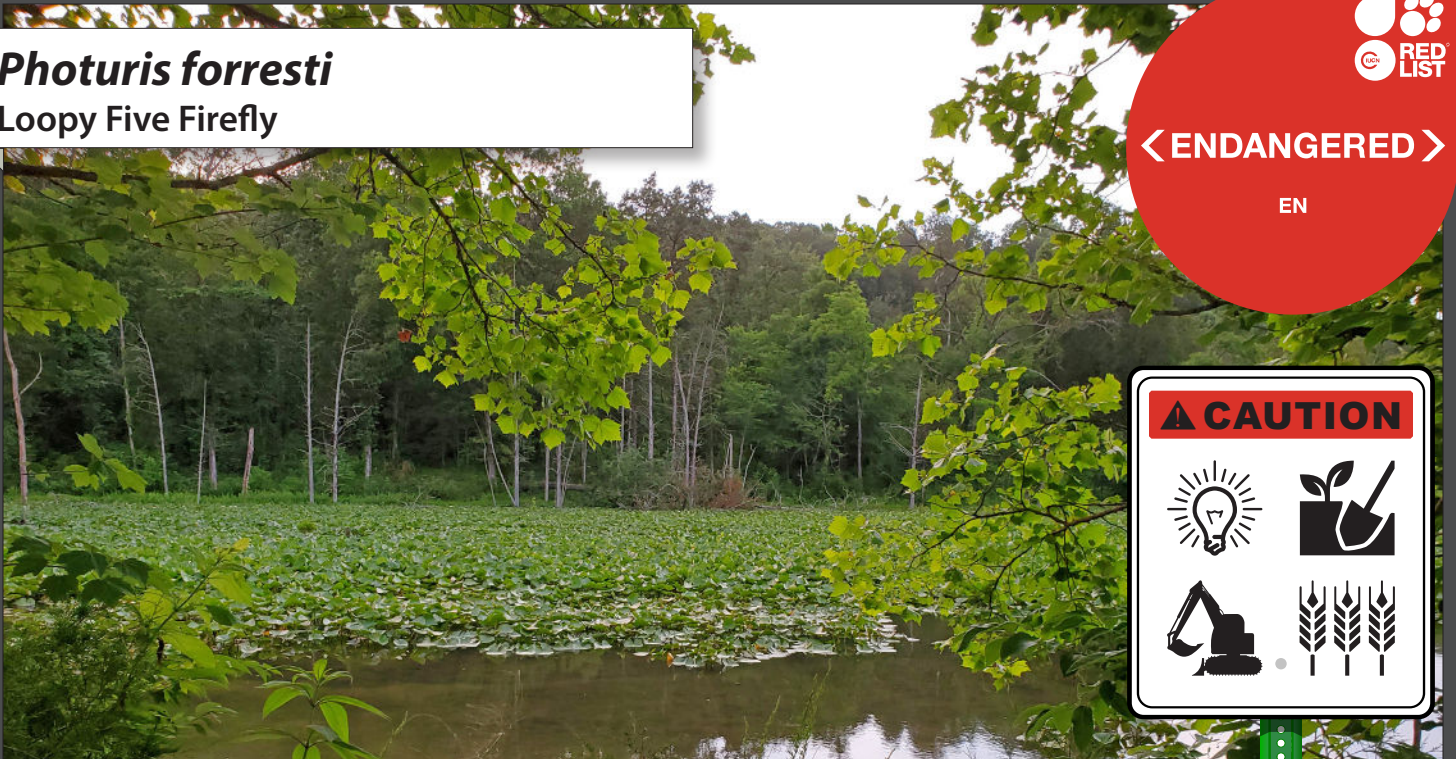
Photuris forresti

Loopy Five Firefly



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This marsh in Tennessee is one of three known sites where the loopy five firefly is found [above]; adult *Photuris forresti* [middle]; the characteristic five-spot flash pattern [below]. (Photos: Lynn Faust [above, middle]; Radim Schreiber [below and on cover].)

Conservation Status

- » IUCN: EN
- » NS: G1; SNR (GA, SC, TN)
- » SGCN: None
- » US ESA: Not listed

Distribution

USA—Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee

Description

11–12 mm



The loopy five firefly occurs in marsh habitats and has thus far been documented at few sites despite years of searching—in Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia. The original SC type locality has been destroyed, but the species was found at a site nearby.

Habitat loss is thus the main threat to this species; light pollution is also a threat. Habitat protection and increased survey efforts are critically needed to protect this firefly.

Flash Pattern & Activity Period

Adults are active from one hour after sunset until midnight in May and June. This species emits a series of erratic greenish-yellow pulses and prolonged flash trains in a five-spot looping pattern.



	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	Seconds	
♂									→ Variable flash pattern, most common form is five or six rapid flashes leading into a train. Due to the rapid speed of the flashes, some may appear as a single long, modulated flash. See above. (Photo by.)
♀									→ Female response unknown*

* 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.