



**Natural Heritage  
& Endangered Species  
Program**

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*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*

**Hentz's Red-bellied Tiger Beetle  
*Cicindela rufiventris hentzii***

State Status: **Threatened**  
Federal Status: **None**

**DESCRIPTION:** Tiger beetles are so named because of their “tiger-like” behavior of chasing down and capturing prey with their long mandibles. Hentz’s Red-bellied Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela rufiventris hentzii*) is 9-12 mm in length (Pearson et al. 2006). It is dark brown in color, with a copper sheen, particularly on the head and thorax. *Cicindela rufiventris hentzii* has white maculations (markings) on the elytra (wing covers) that are broader and more extensive as compared to the nominate subspecies, *Cicindela rufiventris rufiventris*. Both subspecies have an abdomen that is bright orange in color, typically only visible when the elytra are raised for flight.

**HABITAT:** Hentz’s Red-bellied Tiger Beetle inhabits sparsely-vegetated bedrock outcrops, often of granite composition.

**LIFE HISTORY:** Hentz’s Red-bellied Tiger Beetle is a summer species with a one-year life cycle (Leonard & Bell 1999). Adult beetles are active in July and August, during which time they forage, mate, and the females lay eggs. Larvae presumably burrow in soil, moss, and lichens in cracks in the bedrock (Leonard & Bell 1999). Larvae overwinter and complete development in spring and early summer.



*Cicindela rufiventris hentzii* • MA: Middlesex Co., Woburn • 25 Jul 2007 • Photo by M.W. Nelson

**Adult Activity Period in Massachusetts**

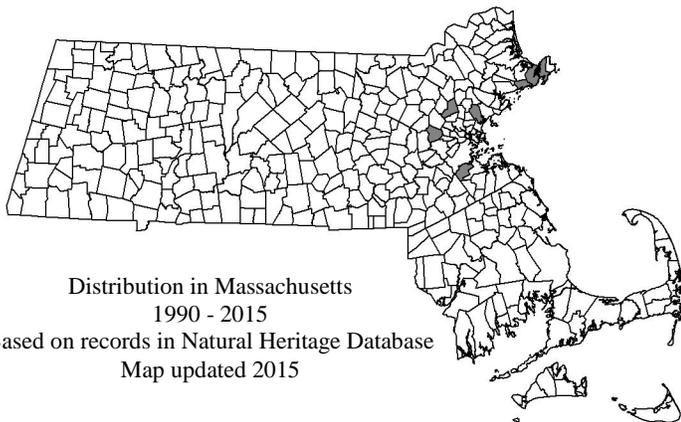
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**GEOGRAPHIC RANGE:** Hentz’s Red-bellied Tiger Beetle is restricted to bedrock outcrops in the hills around Boston, Massachusetts, and extending along the North Shore to Gloucester.

**STATUS AND THREATS:** Hentz’s Red-bellied Tiger Beetle is threatened by habitat loss and suppression of fire, which is needed to maintain the open vegetation structure of its habitat. Other potential threats include aerial insecticide spraying and off-road vehicles.

**Literature Cited**

Leonard, J.G. and R.T. Bell. 1999. *Northeastern Tiger Beetles: A Field Guide to Tiger Beetles of New England and Eastern Canada*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida. 176 pp.  
Pearson, D.L., C.B. Knisley, and C.J. Kazilek. 2006. *A Field Guide to the Tiger Beetles of the United States*



**A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan**

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

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*and Canada*. Oxford University Press, New York,  
New York. 227 pp.

*Updated by M.W. Nelson, NHESP Invertebrate Zoologist, April 2015*

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