



**Natural Heritage
& Endangered Species
Program**

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

**Cobblestone Tiger Beetle
*Cicindela marginipennis***

State Status: **Endangered**
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. The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela marginipennis*) is 11-14 mm in length (Pearson et al. 2006). It ranges from medium brown to olive green in color, with a metallic sheen. Maculation (marking) on the elytra (wing covers) consists of a single, toothed white band around the entire outer edge. The abdomen is bright orange in color, typically only visible when the elytra are raised for flight.

HABITAT: The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle inhabits riparian cobble bars and adjacent sand beaches. Larvae burrow in the sand beneath, between and behind cobbles.

LIFE HISTORY: The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle is a summer species. In Massachusetts, adult beetles emerge in July. They forage, mate, and the females lay eggs during July and August. The details of this species’ life history have not been well studied.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE: The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle ranges from New Brunswick south to New Jersey, and west to Indiana and Kentucky, with disjunct populations in South Carolina and Alabama (NatureServe 2015). This



Cicindela marginipennis • MA: Franklin Co. • 31 Jul 2007 • Photo by M.W. Nelson

Adult Activity Period in Massachusetts

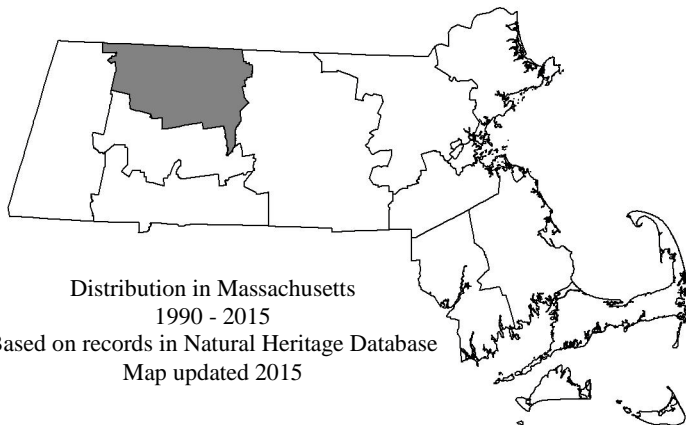
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species is rare and localized throughout its range. It may also be under-surveyed, with additional populations yet to be discovered. In Massachusetts, the Cobblestone Tiger Beetle is only known to occur at a single site in Franklin County.

STATUS AND THREATS: The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle is threatened by hydrologic alteration that disrupts natural seasonal flooding and deposition of cobble and sand in its habitat. Other potential threats include invasion by exotic plants, eutrophication or other water pollution, river bank stabilization, aerial insecticide spraying, and off-road vehicles.

Literature Cited

NatureServe. 2015. *NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life*. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. <http://explorer.natureserve.org>.



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

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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Pearson, D.L., C.B. Knisley, and C.J. Kazilek. 2006. *A Field Guide to the Tiger Beetles of the United States and Canada*. Oxford University Press, New York, New York. 227 pp.

Authored by M.W. Nelson, NHESP Invertebrate Zoologist, April 2015

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