

Beetles: Common Claybank Tiger Beetle

Cicindela limbalis

HABITAT

Bare clay slopes, often on river banks.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Only one specimen positively identified from the Eagle River crossing of the Dempster Highway.

North America: From the central Mackenzie River valley south through the Rockies east across southern Canada to the Maritimes, south in the United States to the Great Lakes and New England.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: N5 (Secure)

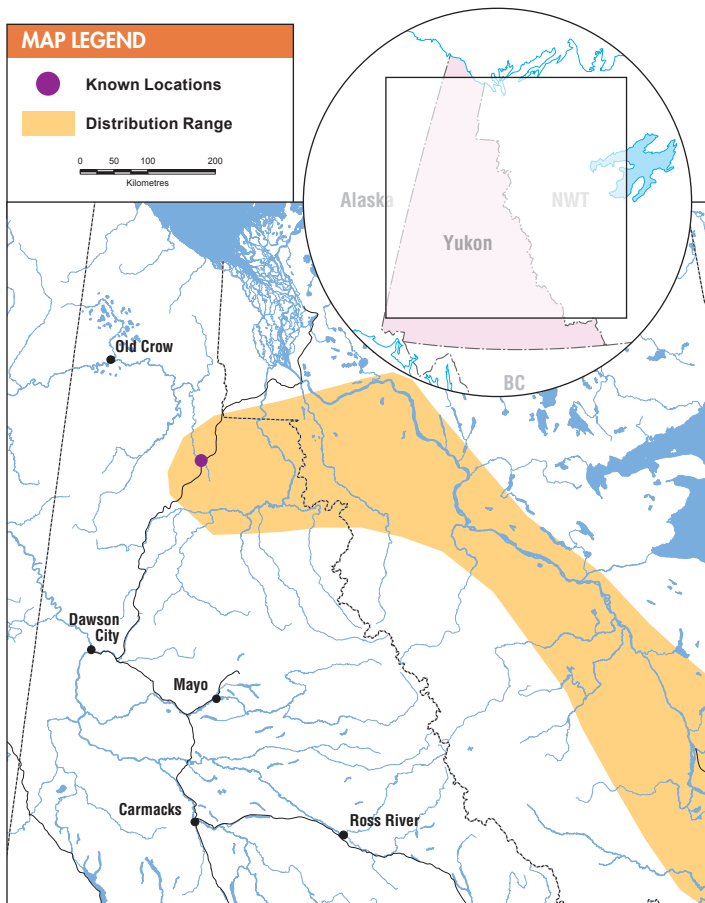
Yukon: S1S3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The coppery-red head and pronotum, vividly outlined in green, and a shoulder mark reduced to two spots are distinguishing field marks in all colour morphs.



Photo: John Acorn



Beetles: Oblique-lined Tiger Beetle

Cicindela tranquebarica

HABITAT

In the Yukon, only known from saline mud flats. In most of its range lives in a variety of open habitats: mudflats, claybanks, sand dunes, blowouts, salt flats, sparse prairies and vacant lots.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Only known from salt flats near Shallow Bay on Lake Laberge.

North America: Yukon population widely disjunct from the species' main range; widespread through central Canada from interior B.C. east to Maritimes, including southern Newfoundland; also found through almost all of the lower 48 states except Florida and western parts the Pacific States.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: N5 (Secure)

Yukon: S1 (Critically Imperilled)



Photo: John Acorn

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

A dark, medium-large tiger beetle with well-developed markings, including a long, oblique shoulder mark.

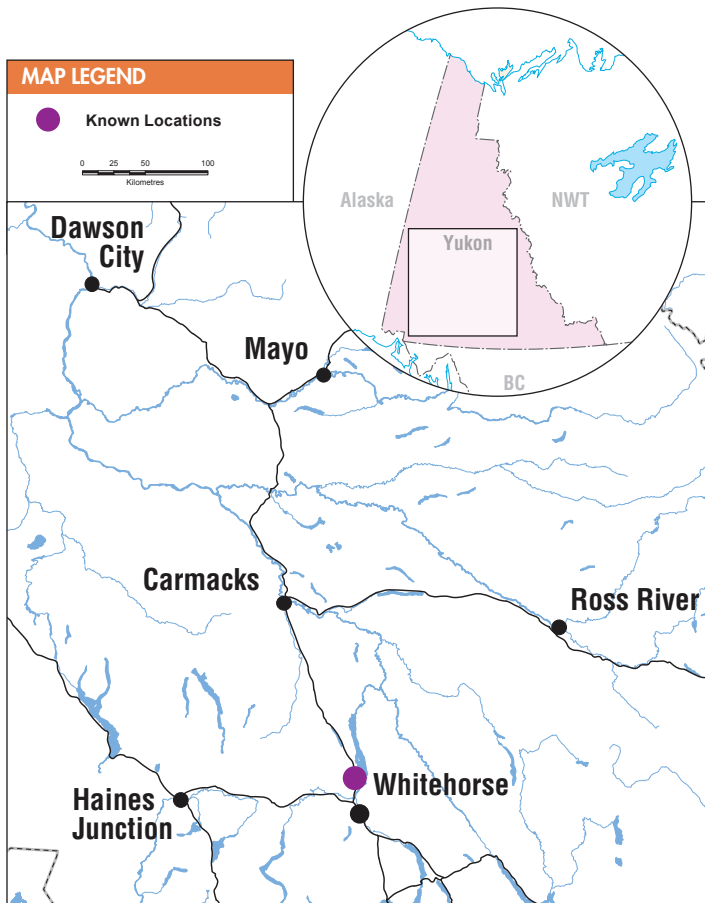


Photo: Bruce Bennett

Beetles: Variable Tiger Beetle

Cylindera terricola

HABITAT

Sparsely-vegetated prairie, silty slopes, and salt flats.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Known from the Whitehorse area, Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain).

North America: Southern Yukon, disjunct from other parts of the range through southern BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and south through Western USA to Arizona, New Mexico and central California.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: NNR (Not Ranked)

Yukon: S3 (Vulnerable)

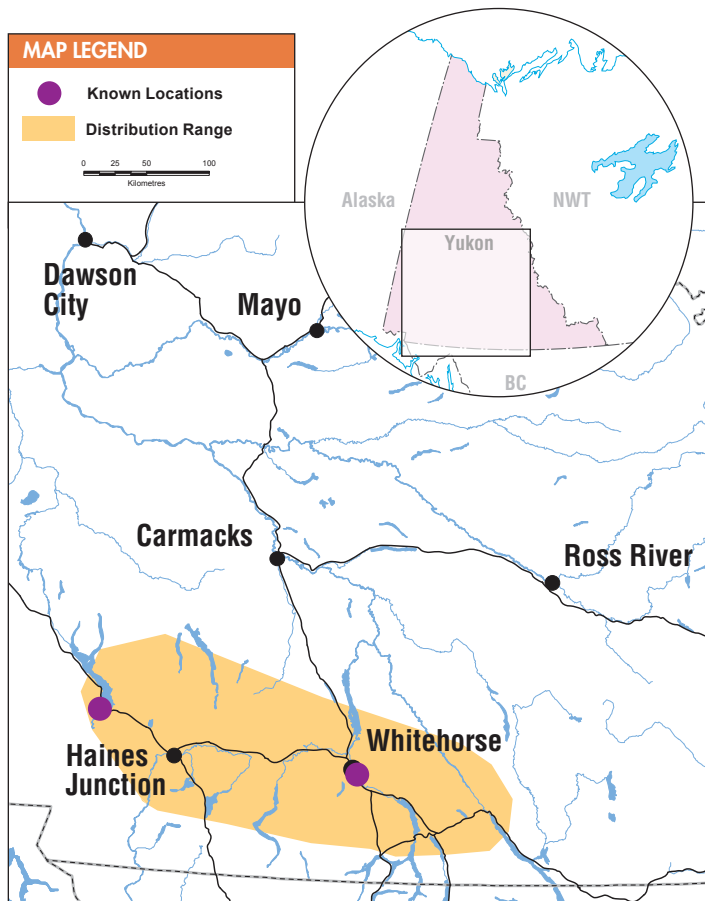


Photo: John Acorn

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

A small tiger beetle, with very fine light markings and a greenish or black ground colour.



Photo: Bruce Bennett

Bivalve Clams: Yukon Floater

Anodonta beringiana

HABITAT

Adult mussels live in the clear water of shallow lakes or slow-moving streams. They feed by filtering phytoplankton and bits of decaying organic matter out of the water.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Restricted to the Porcupine and Tanana drainages in Yukon. Only specimens are from a lake at the headwaters of the Eagle River; also known from anecdotal reports or photographs from Scottie Creek (near Beaver Creek), and in the Old Crow region.

North America: Alaska (Aleutian Islands, southwestern Alaska to northern and central interior and into the upper Yukon River drainage) and Yukon.

Global: Russia (Kamchatka, Chukotka, Magadan, and Kuriles), Alaska, and Yukon.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G4 (Apparently Secure)

Canada: N2N4 (Imperilled to Apparently Secure)

Yukon: S1S3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)



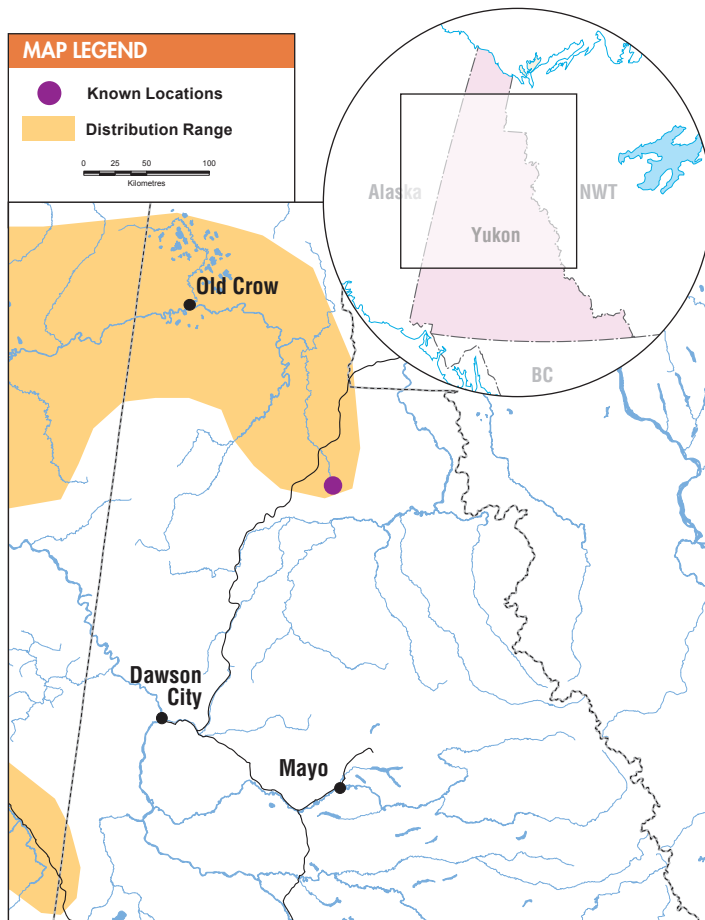
Photo: Rhonda Rosie

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The Yukon Floater isn't flashy. Its large shell is usually dark brown in older adults and lighter brown or olive green in young mussels. The interior of the shell is gun-metal blue. The shell is a little more rounded in shape than many mussels and grows as long as 15 centimetres.



Photo: Rhonda Rosie



Butterflies & Moths: Arctic Tiger Moth

Acerbia alpina

FAMILY

Tiger Moth (*Erebidae: Arctiinae*)

HABITAT

Inhabits dry rocky tundra. Nothing else is known about its biology.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Known only from Herschel Island, but probably more widespread in northern and eastern mountains.

North America: Alaska, Yukon and only one other known location in Canada, the Tlogotsho Range in southwest NWT.

Global: Northern Scandinavia across northern Russia to Alaska, Yukon and NWT.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G3G4 (Vulnerable to Apparently Secure)

Canada: N2N3 (Imperilled to Vulnerable)

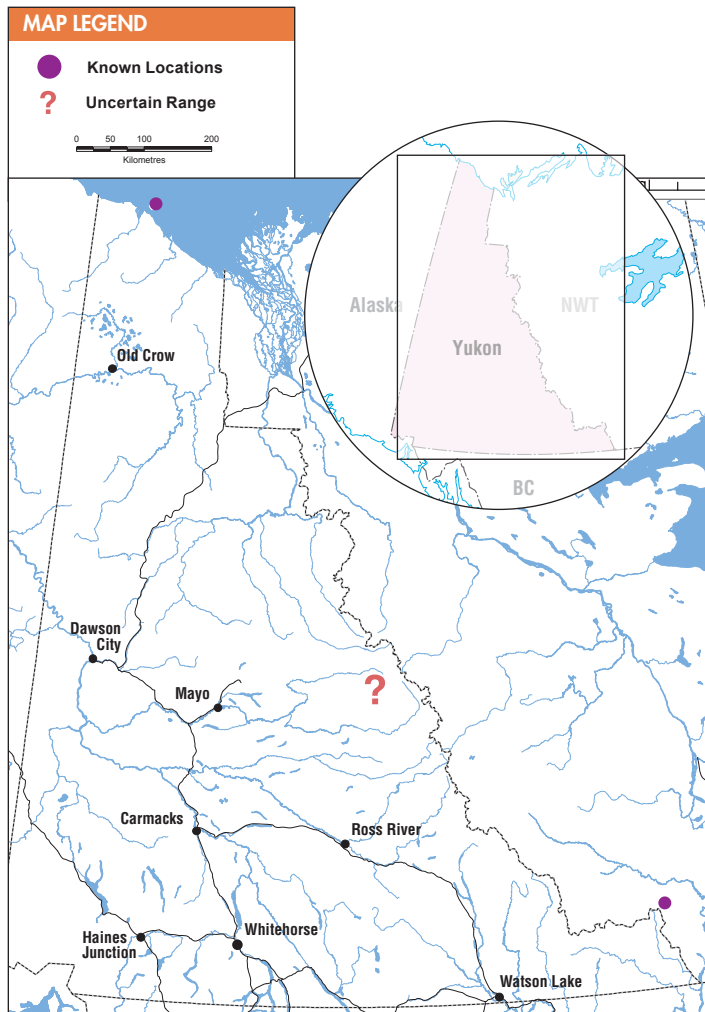
Yukon: S2S3 (Imperilled to Vulnerable)



Photo: Colin Gordon

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This large tiger moth is boldly patterned with yellow and black. There are no similar species in Yukon.



There are many rarely-seen, poorly-understood species of Tiger Moths in Yukon. To assist in documenting their distribution and life-history, Tiger Moth adults or caterpillars, and/or photographs can be provided to, Syd Cannings at Environment Canada (Syd.Cannings@ec.gc.ca) or Crispin Guppy at Ecofor Consulting Ltd. (cris@ecofor.ca) (both are in Whitehorse), together with location/date and GPS coordinates (if possible), notes/photos regarding habitat, and the plant species caterpillars were found on. Adult moths can be killed through freezing. Live moths or caterpillars can be stored in a plastic container in a cooler on ice (at 0-10°C) for a week or more. Under these conditions live moths (if female) will frequently lay eggs, which can then be reared to provide additional adults. Collecting/killing samples of rare moths will not adversely affect their populations – only a tiny proportion of the total population will be affected, as long as the habitat continues to exist. Photographs of all the known Yukon Tiger Moths are at www.cbif.gc.ca/spp_pages/noctuoidea/provinces/yt_e.php. Click on “Family Arctiidae.”



Photo: Credit

Butterflies & Moths: Chalcidon Checkerspot

Euphydryas chalcedona

FAMILY

Brush-footed Butterfly (*Nymphalidae*)

HABITAT

Adults emerge in June and breed in sunny, low elevation, dry rocky to sandy areas that have the larval foodplant, Beard-tongue (probably *Penstemon procerus* but *P. gormanii* is also possible). Adults die by mid-July. Egg masses are laid on Beard-tongue leaves, and the caterpillars live in "tents" on the plants. The caterpillars hibernate in the tents, and complete their growth in the spring.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Southern Yukon.

North America: Yukon south to California in the Coastal Mountains.

Global: North America.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: N4N5 (Apparently Secure to Secure)

Yukon: S1S3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

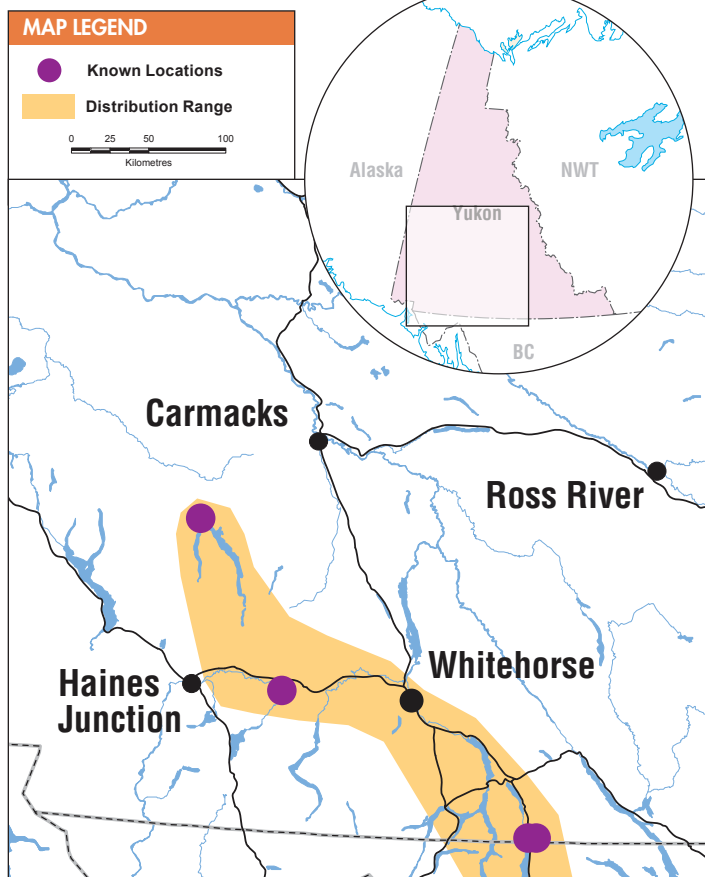
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The upperside of the wings is a "checkerboard" pattern of black with white spots, and some red spots. Most of the red spots are in a band along the outer edge of the forewing. The underside of the wings is similar to the upperside, but the colours are "faded." The similar Anicia Checkerspot is widespread and frequently abundant in southern Yukon, but the colours are less bold (more pastel shades), there are orangeish spots throughout the wing areas, and the white spots are mostly yellowish or orangish rather than pure white.



Shrubby Penstemon, *Penstemon procerus*

Photo: Bruce Bennett



Butterflies & Moths: Compton Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis l-album*

FAMILY

Brush-footed Butterfly (*Nymphalidae*)

HABITAT

Adults emerge from hibernation in May and frequent sunny, low elevation areas with abundant birch trees. The spiny caterpillars feed on the birch leaves, and pupation occurs by late July. Adults emerge in late July and later in August seek hibernation sites such as hollow trees, unheated buildings, and attics. Their abundance in Yukon and Alaska has apparently greatly increased over the past ten years.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Southern Yukon.

North America: Central Alaska east to Newfoundland, south of the northern US states

Global: North America and Eurasia.

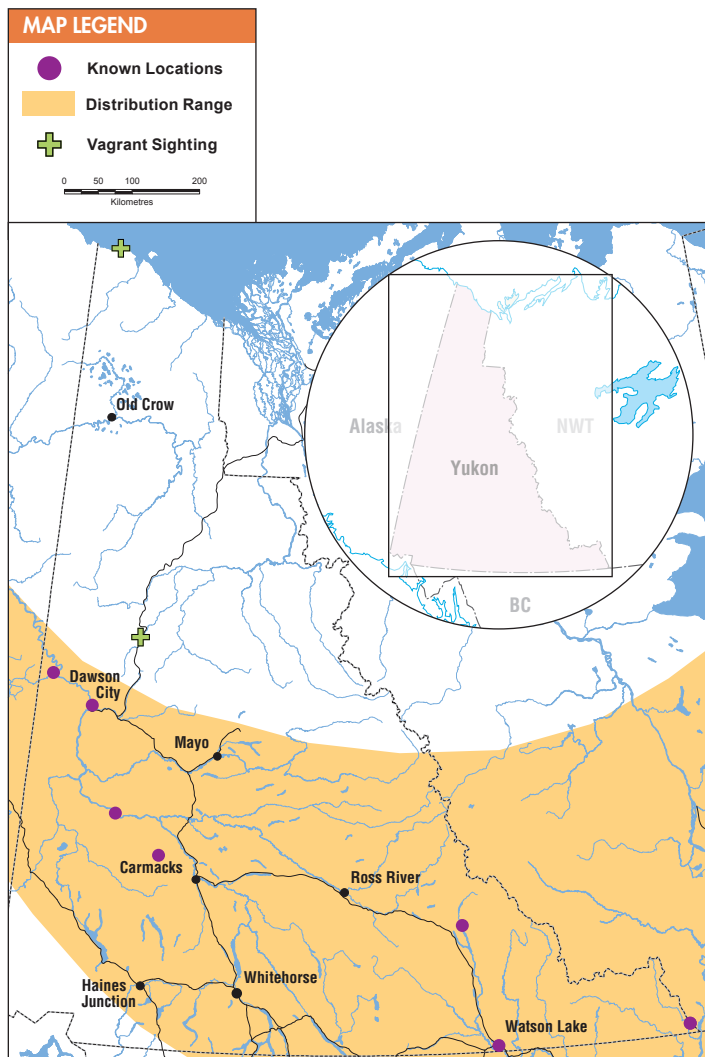


Photo: Cris Guppy

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: N5 (Secure)

Yukon: S3S4 (Vulnerable to Apparently Secure)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Upperside of the wings orange-brown with black markings, with a white bar and white spots on each forewing. The underside of the wings is mottled grey-brown with a cryptic bark-like pattern and a white "comma" shaped mark. The anglewings (*Polygonia* species) are similar in appearance, but are smaller and do not have the white bar and spots on the forewings.



Photo: Bruce Bennett



Photo: Cris Guppy

Butterflies & Moths: **Kluane Tiger Moth** *Arctia brachyptera*

FAMILY

Tiger Moth (*Erebidae: Arctiinae*)

HABITAT

Bare, dry tundra hilltops; the adults fly in late June and early July.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Known in the Yukon only from the Kluane Ranges, but probably more widespread.

North America: Known only from the Kluane Ranges, and from one site in the Mackenzie Mountains of the Northwest Territories.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G1G3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

Canada: N1N3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

Yukon: S1S3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

COSEWIC Status: Candidate



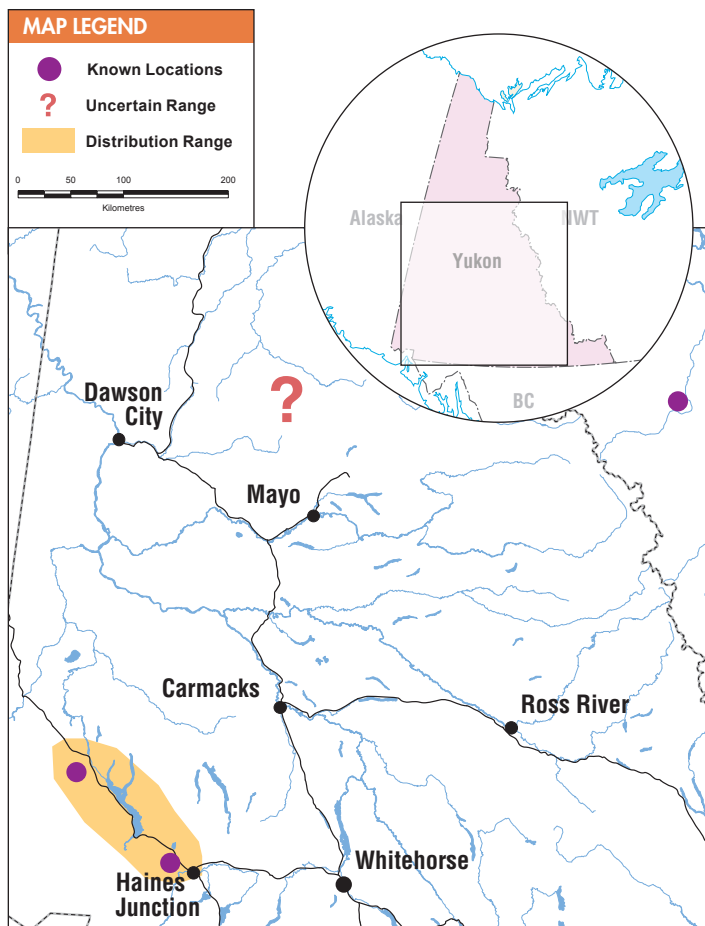
Photo: Canadian Biodiversity Information Facility

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Large; the hindwings are reddish with a black band across the outer part. The chocolate brown forewings have only a few white markings. The only similar species in Yukon is the more common *Arctia opulenta*, which has the hindwing colour reddish with black spots (rather than a black band) and numerous large white markings on the forewing.



Photo: Syd Cannings



Butterflies & Moths: Kononenko's Dodia

Dodia kononenkoi

FAMILY

Tiger Moth (*Erebidae: Arctiinae*)

HABITAT

Dry, rocky tundra slopes; adults fly in in mid- to late June.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Ogilvie, British, and Richardson mountains.

North America: Yukon (expected in Alaska and NWT).

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G1G3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

Canada: N1N3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

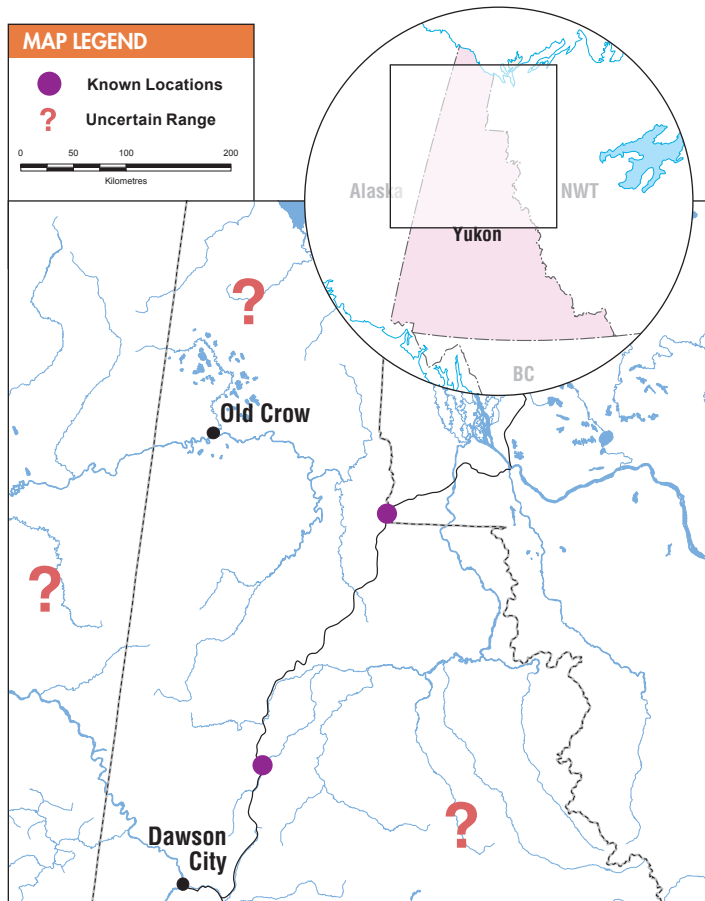
Yukon: S1S3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)



Photo: Canadian Biodiversity Information Facility

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Dodia are moderately small tiger moths with grey, translucent wings. An almost complete lack of markings make the three Yukon species difficult to tell apart. It is best to assume that any *Dodia* that is found may be one of the two rare species, and to photograph or collect it so that an expert can complete the identification. The habitat and the translucent wings will separate *Dodia* species from most other greyish moths in Yukon.



Butterflies & Moths: Lafontaine's Tiger Moth

Neoarctia lafontainei

FAMILY

Tiger Moth (*Erebidae: Arctiinae*)

HABITAT

Dry scree on a mountain tops.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Known in the world only from Windy Pass on the Dempster Highway.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G1G3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

Canada: N1N3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

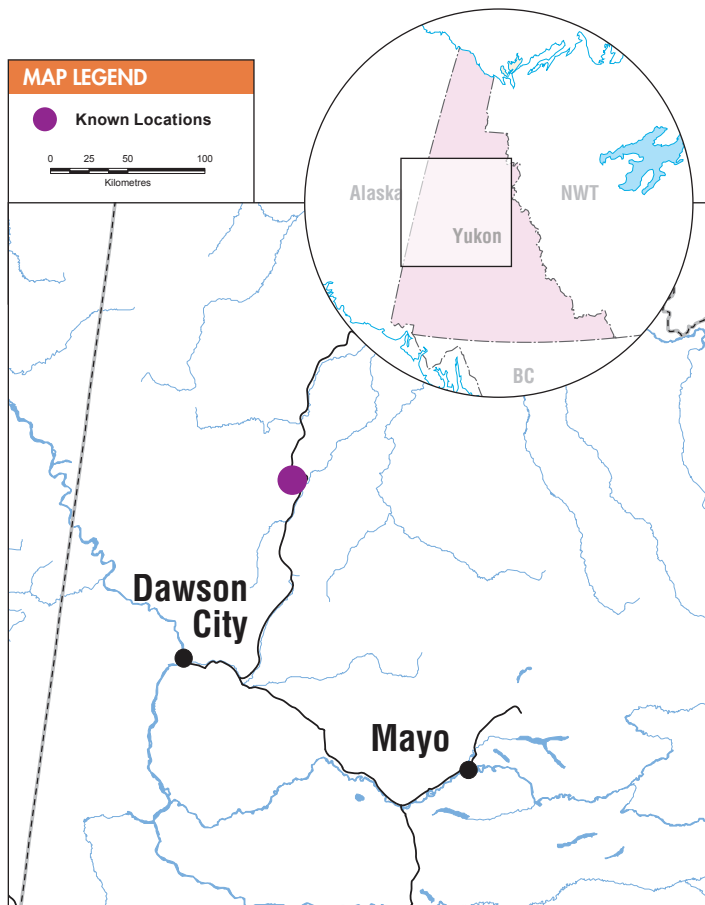
Yukon: S1S3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

A medium-sized, large-bodied tiger moth with a dull yellow pattern in the forewings and pale grey hindwings. Most other large-bodied grey moths only occur at low elevations.



Photo: Canadian Biodiversity Information Facility



Butterflies & Moths: **Milbert's Tortoiseshell** *Aglais milberti*

FAMILY

Brush-footed Butterfly (*Nymphalidae*)

HABITAT

Adults emerge from hibernation in May and are usually found in sunny, moist riparian areas that have the larval foodplant, Stinging Nettle. The blackish, spiny caterpillars can be found in masses on nettle leaves. In late July, newly-emerged adults migrate to sub-alpine and alpine meadows before returning in August to low elevations to find hibernation sites such as woodpiles or rock rubble.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Southern Yukon.

North America: Yukon east to Newfoundland, south to Mexico in the west and the Appalachians Mountain in the east.

Global: Yukon east to Newfoundland, south to Mexico in the west and the Appalachians Mountain in the east.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: N5 (Secure)

Yukon: S3 (Vulnerable)

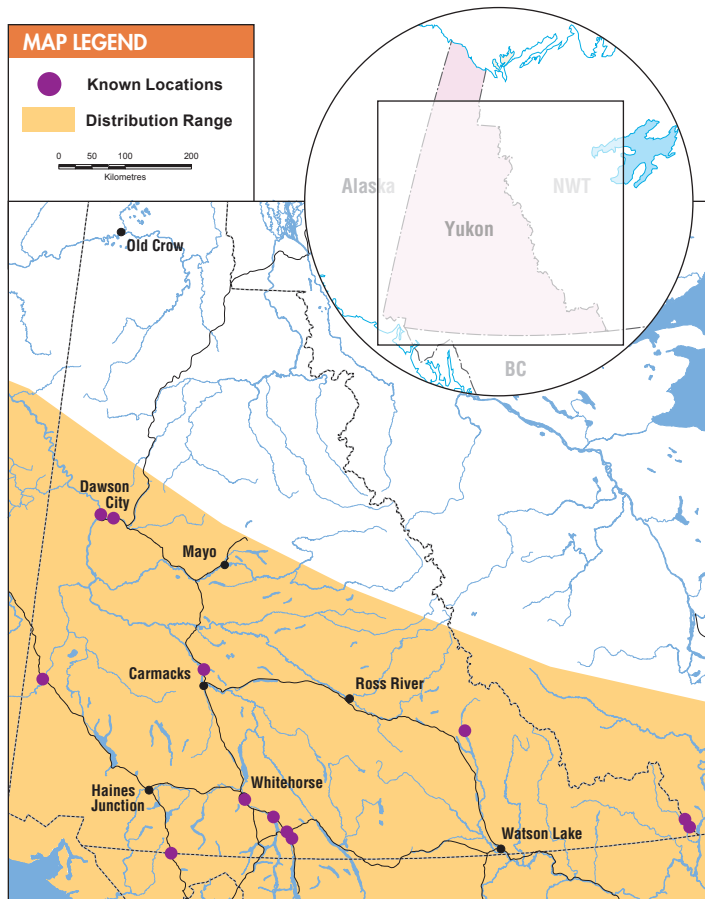


Photo: Cris Guppy

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The upperside of the wings is dark brown, with distinctive orange and yellow band across the middle of all four wings. The underside is mottled dark brown with a cryptic, bark-like pattern.



Photo: Cris Guppy



Photo: Etienne Normandin

Butterflies & Moths: Nebulous Tiger Moth

Pararctia subnebulosa

FAMILY

Tiger Moth (*Erebidae: Arctiinae*)

HABITAT

Open, wet spruce taiga.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Known from the Ogilvie and Richardson mountains in the north, and the Ruby Ranges in the southwest.

North America: Yukon and Alaska.

Global: Amphiberian - Yukon, Pribilof Islands in Alaska, and Chukotka.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G3G4 (Vulnerable to Apparently Secure)

Canada: N2N4 (Imperilled to Apparently Secure)

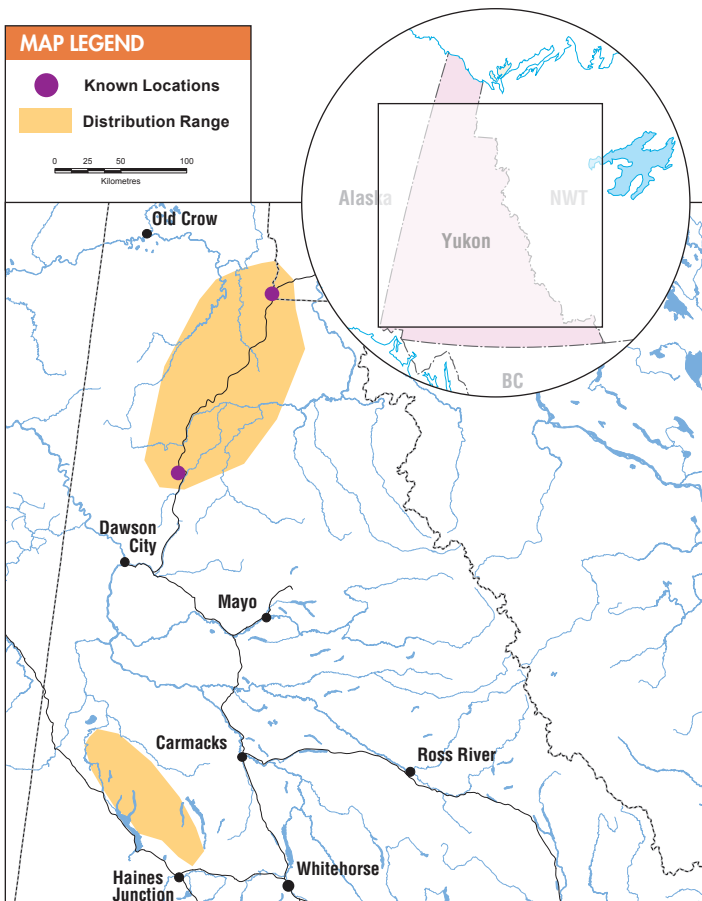
Yukon: S2S4 (Imperilled to Apparently Secure)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

A large, brightly coloured moth; the forewings are dark brown with a network of pale yellow bands. The hindwings are pale yellow with a grey outer band (males) or mostly grey (females). The females have small, narrow wings and are apparently flightless. Males of two closely-related species have orangish (rather than yellowish) hindwings and the females look like the males. *Grammia blakei* is also similar, but is smaller, has black and white (rather than dark brown and pale yellowish) forewings and the hindwing is more boldly patterned.



Photo: Etienne Normandin





Photos: Cris Guppy

Butterflies & Moths: Pacific Orangetip

Anthocharis sara

FAMILY

Whites, Marbles and Sulphur (*Pieridae*)

HABITAT

Adults emerge from hibernating pupae as the snow melts in May, and breed in sunny, low elevation, rocky or gravelly areas that have the larval foodplant, rockcress. Adults usually die by mid-June. Conical, ribbed eggs are laid on rockcress flowerbuds. The green caterpillars are easily found feeding on the developing fruit and leaves of rockcress. The caterpillars are similar to those of the very abundant Large Marble (*Euchloe ausonides*), which are also found on rockcress. The pupae are cryptic, and very difficult to find; they hibernate through the late summer, fall and winter until the adults emerge the next spring.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Carcross to Whitehorse east to the Atlin Road.

North America: Yukon south to California along the coast.

Global: North America.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: N5 (Secure)

Yukon: S2S3 (Imperilled to Vulnerable)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The upperside of the wings is white with a distinctive, prominent orange-and-black tip on each forewing (paler and smaller in females). The underside of the wings is white with green marbling on the hindwings.

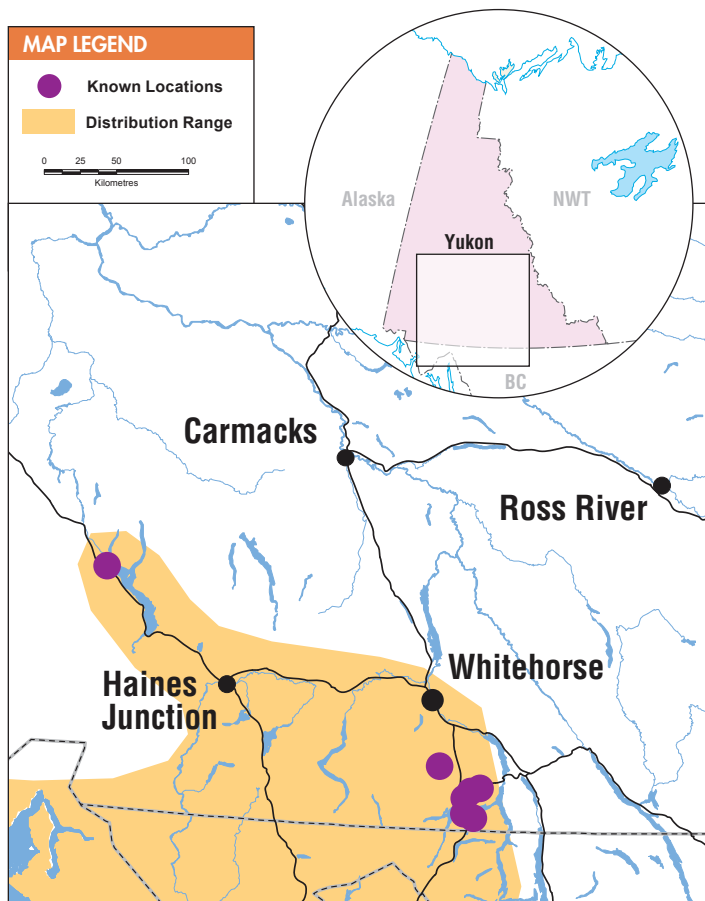


Photo: Cris Guppy



Drummond's Rockcress,
Boechera stricta

Photo: Bruce Bennett

Butterflies & Moths: Philip's Tiger Moth

Grammia philipiana

FAMILY

Tiger Moth (*Erebidae: Arctiinae*)

HABITAT

Unknown but likely dry rocky tundra.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Known from the White Mountains in the northern Richardson Mountains, and from the Ruby Ranges in the southwest; undoubtedly more widespread.

North America: Alaska, Yukon and NWT.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G3 (Vulnerable)

Canada: N1N# (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

Yukon: S1S3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)



Photo: Canadian Biodiversity Information Facility.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

A medium-size, brightly patterned tiger moth. The forewings are black with the veins boldly outlined in pale yellow, and the hindwing is pale reddish with grey spots. The most similar species are *Grammia virguncula* (forewing similar, but hindwing pale yellowish with black markings) and *Grammia quenseli* (forewing markings strong yellow, and hindwing grey with small yellowish spots).



Photo: Michael Oldham

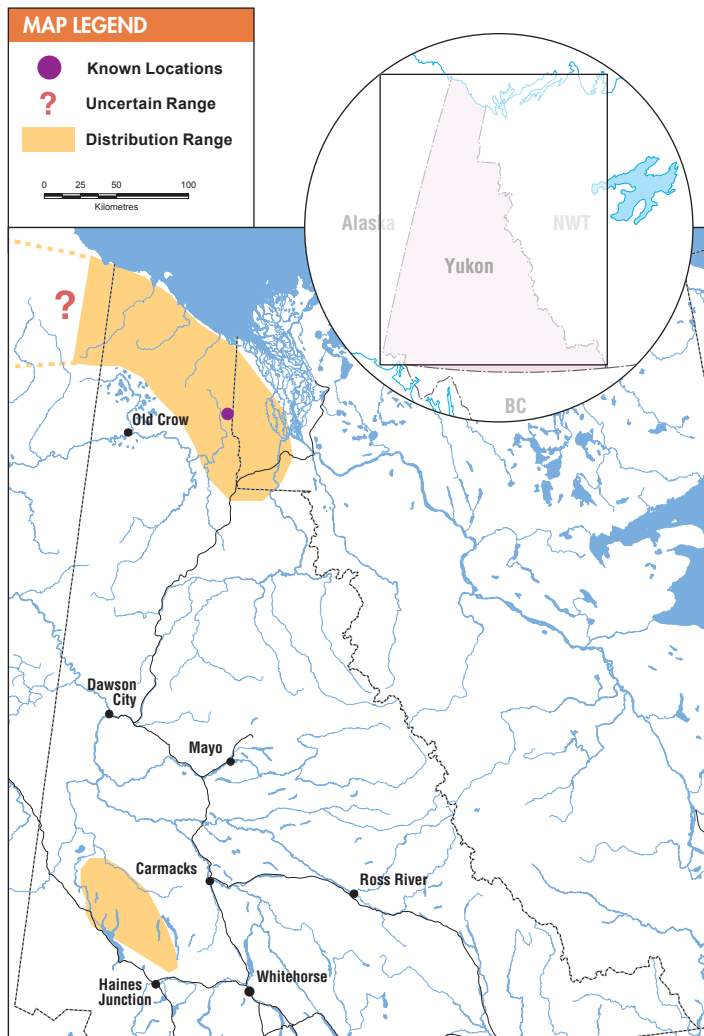




Photo: Cris Guppy

Butterflies & Moths: Rockslide Tiger Moth

Holoarctia sordida

FAMILY

Tiger Moth (*Erebidae: Arctiinae*)

HABITAT

Alpine talus and scree slopes.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Four known locations in the Kluane Ranges, and Ogilvie, Richardson, and Wernecke mountains.

North America: Known only in Yukon.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G2G3 (Imperilled to Vulnerable)

Canada: NNR (Not Ranked)

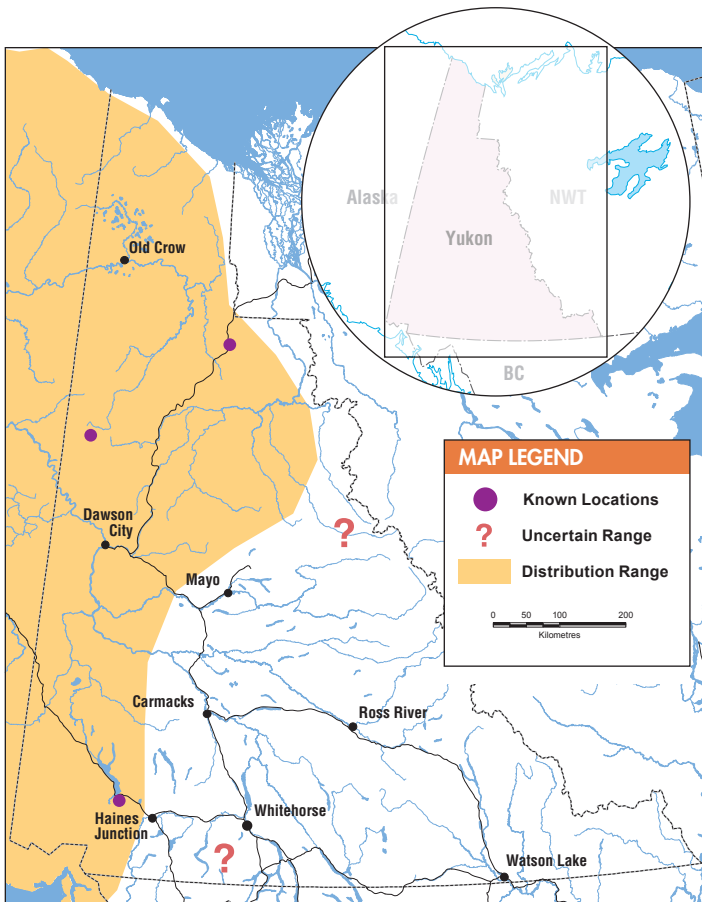
Yukon: S2S3 (Imperilled to Vulnerable)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

A relatively dull-coloured but distinctively patterned tiger moth. The forewings are black with a faded pattern of narrow pale yellow bands, and the hindwings are entirely grey. This is a new, unnamed species closely-related to the (also rare) *Holoarctia sordida* from the Rocky Mountains.



Photo: Cris Guppy



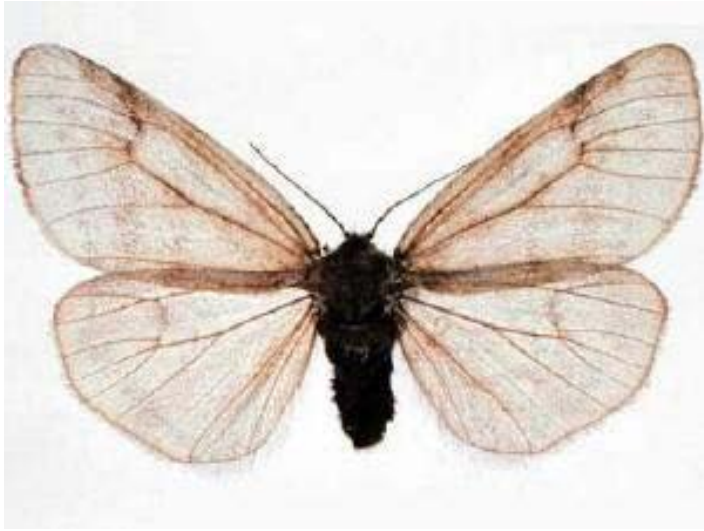


Photo: Canadian Biodiversity Information Facility

Butterflies & Moths: **Straight-lined Dodia** *Dodia verticalis*

FAMILY

Tiger Moth (*Erebidae: Arctiinae*)

HABITAT

Dry rocky tundra slopes in mid- to late June.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: British Mountains and Richardson Mountains at Dempster Highway.

North America: Endemic to Yukon.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G1G3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

Canada: N1N3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

Yukon: S1S3 (Critically Imperilled to Vulnerable)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Dodia are moderately small tiger moths with grey, translucent wings. An almost complete lack of markings make the three Yukon species difficult to tell apart. It is best to assume that any *Dodia* species that is found may be one of the two rare species, and to photograph or collect it so that an expert can complete the identification. The habitat and the translucent wings will separate *Dodia* species from most other greyish moths in Yukon.

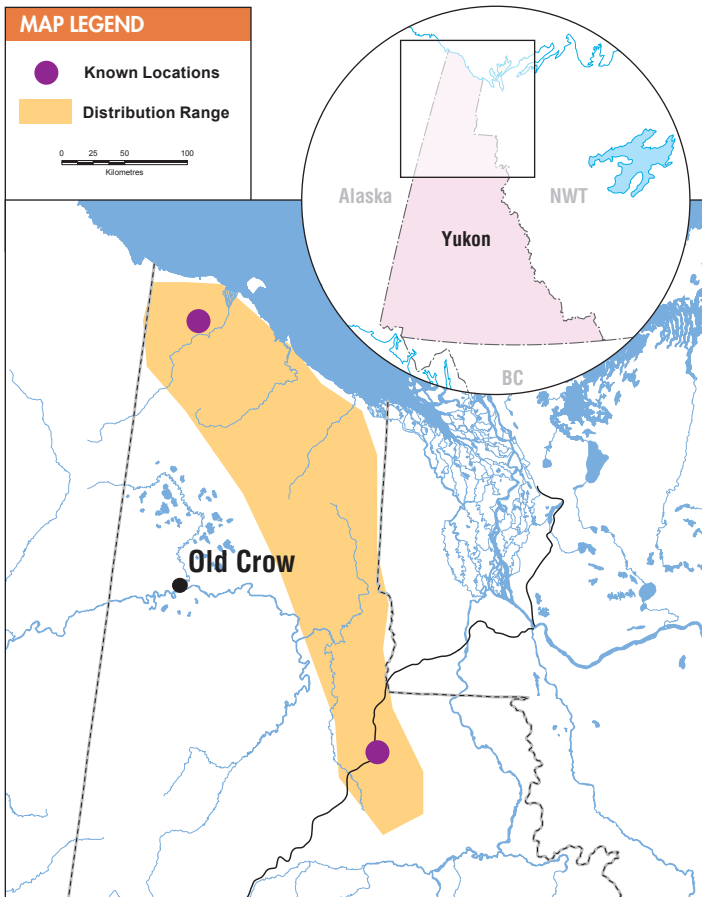
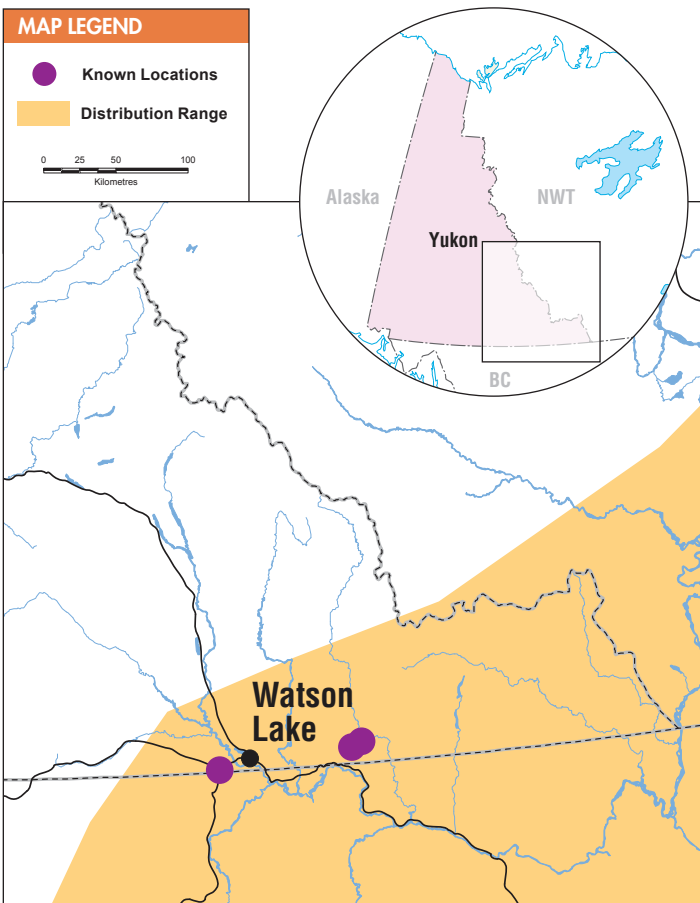




Photo Robert Cannings



Dragonfly: Boreal Snaketail

Ophiogomphus colubrinus

HABITAT

Breeds along rapidly-flowing, warm clear streams and rivers. Most sites are streams draining shallow, warm lakes.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: Restricted to the lower Liard Basin.

North America: Found across the southern boreal and sub-boreal zones of Canada and northeastern USA, from north-central BC and southeastern Yukon to the Atlantic Provinces and Maine.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: N4N5 (Apparently Secure to Secure)

Yukon: S2 (Imperilled)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

The thorax is bright green with a conspicuous stripe on the side, and the yellowish green head sports a pair of widely-separated yellow green eyes. The slender, club-ended abdomen is dark brown with yellowish markings.



Photo: Royal BC Museum

Dragonfly: Canada Darner

Aeshna canadensis

HABITAT

Most often associated with beaver ponds and small, peat-margined lakes.

DISTRIBUTION

Yukon: One record from Swim Lakes near Faro. Apparently disjunct from nearest known populations in central BC; more inventory in southeast needed.

North America: Throughout the southern boreal and sub-boreal regions of Canada and the northeastern USA south to Missouri. Also along the Pacific coast south to California.

CONSERVATION RANK

Global: G5 (Secure)

Canada: N5 (Secure)

Yukon: S1 (Critically Imperilled)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

There are nine species of darners in Yukon, all with beautiful patterns of green, blue, or yellow on the abdomen and thorax. The Canada Darner is distinguished by a pale green face crossed by a light brown (as opposed to black) line, and by distinctive thoracic stripes: the forward edge of the first thoracic stripe is strongly indented with an almost right-angled notch, and between the two thoracic stripes is a small yellowish dot.

