
A Grasshopper

Argiacris militaris

Insecta — Orthoptera — Acrididae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Vulnerable/Apparently secure (G3G4)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: No status
IDFG: Not classified

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Lack of essential information pertaining to status; Idaho endemic.

TAXONOMY

The species was originally described within the genus *Melanoplus*. Gurney (1971) described 2 subspecies, *A. m. militaris* and *A. m. laticerca*. The latter subspecies is known only from 1 locality in Lemhi County. *Argiacris militaris militaris* occurs in Camas, Blaine, and Custer counties.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This grasshopper is endemic to Idaho. Populations occur in Camas, Blaine, Lemhi, and Custer counties.

POPULATION TREND

No data are available to suggest population trend.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

At a locality in Custer County, specimens have been found on boulders of a talus slope where only scattered vegetation was present. At a locality in Blaine County, the species occurred on coarse stony ground in a nearly level area on the summit of a mountain. In Lemhi County, the subspecies *laticerca* was collected at about 2700 m elevation on a rocky talus slope having a west exposure. The habitat was sparsely vegetated with fescue grasses, sedges, and scattered forbs (Gurney 1971). The elevational range of the species is about 2500-2800 m.

ISSUES

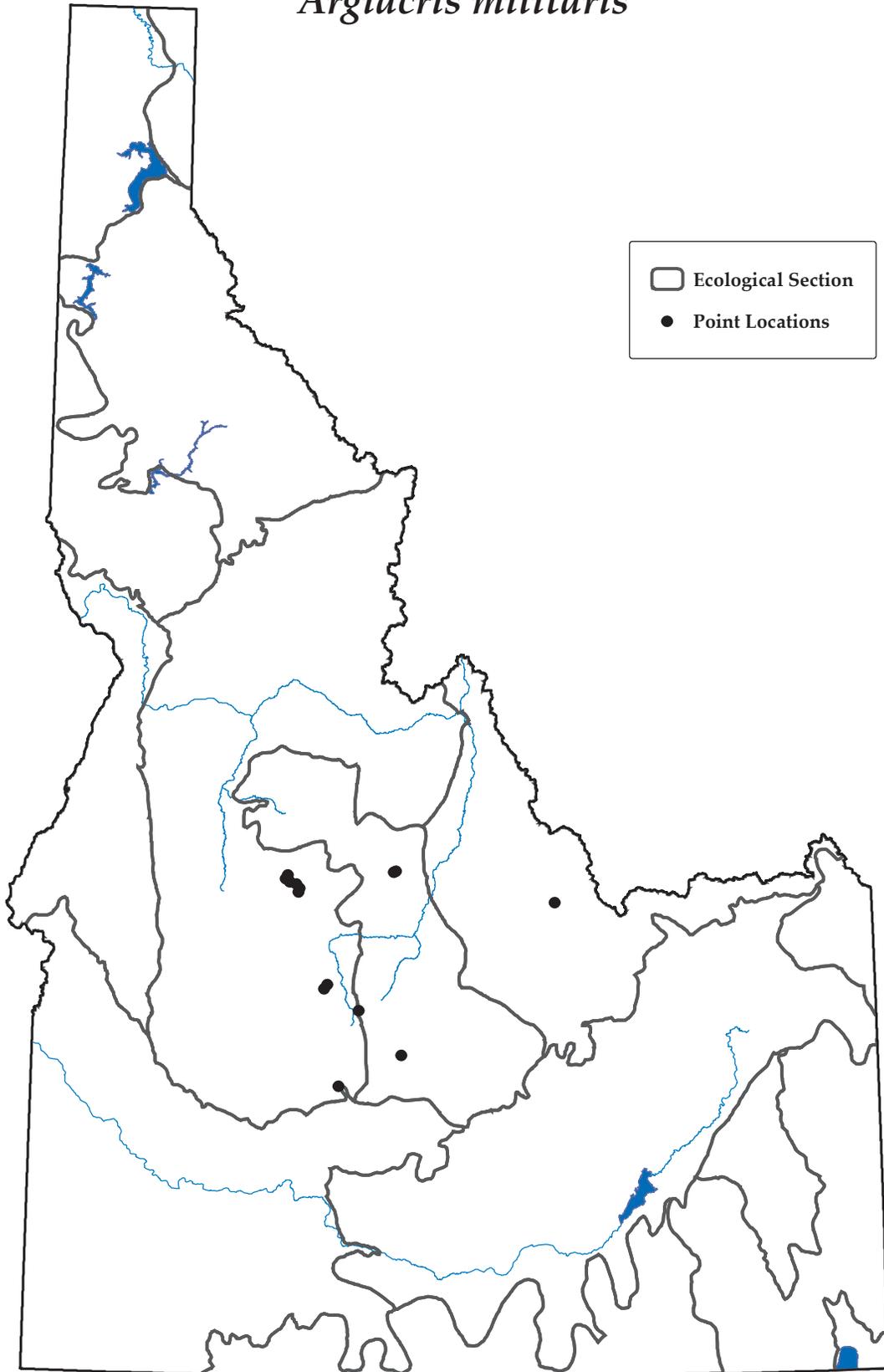
Threats to grasshoppers include pesticides and habitat modification. Although conversion of native habitat to agricultural uses has benefited some grasshopper species, there are no data to suggest that agriculture has benefited this species. Kemp (1994) reported post-drought declines of certain taxa; drought combined with other habitat modifications may be of particular importance.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Available specimen data are from 1928-1970, with most specimens collected from 1962-1970. Field surveys are needed to determine the current status and distribution of populations.

A Grasshopper

Argiacris militaris



2 August 2005
Point data are from Idaho Conservation Data Center,
Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

