



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581

tel: (508) 389-6360; fax: (508) 389-7891

www.nhesp.org

Hentz's Redbelly 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 Redbelly 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 Redbelly Tiger Beetle inhabits sparsely-vegetated bedrock outcrops, often of granite composition.

Life History: Hentz’s Redbelly 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.

Geographic Range: Hentz’s Redbelly Tiger Beetle is restricted to bedrock outcrops in the hills around Boston, Massachusetts, and extending along the North Shore to Gloucester.



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

Adult Activity Period

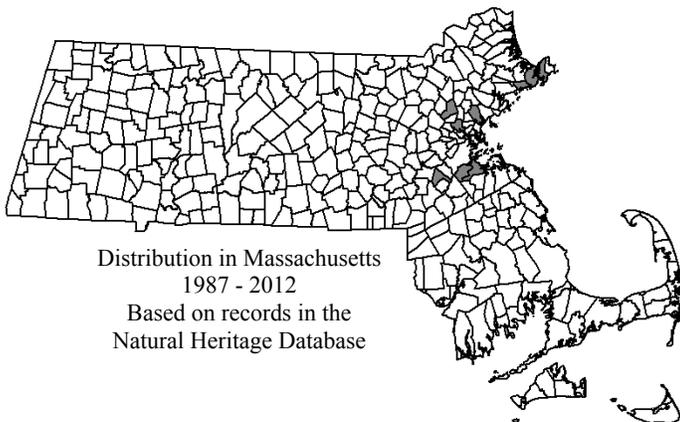
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Status and Threats: Hentz’s Redbelly Tiger Beetle is threatened by habitat loss and suppression of fire, which is needed to maintain the open vegetative structure of its habitat. Other potential threats include off-road vehicles and insecticide spraying.

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

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