

Maritime Ringlet

Coenonympha nipisiquit

STATUS	Endangered 	Not Listed 
Endangered 	Endangered 	Not Listed 

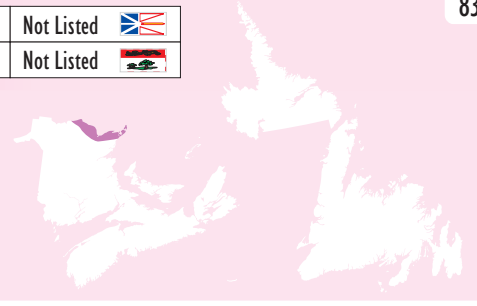


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Species Description

The Maritime Ringlet is a small butterfly of the Nymphalidae (brush-footed butterfly) family. Its wings (32-36 mm span) are dark orange-brown with a paler middle section. The undersides of its wings (visible when wings are folded) are grey-brown with a much paler central band. Females are generally more orange-brown in colour. Caterpillars are striped green and yellow, and about 2 cm long. The chrysalis (pupa, or cocoon-like sac) is usually bluish-green with black stripes and found on Salt-meadow Grass.

Endemic to the salt marshes of Chaleur Bay in New Brunswick and Quebec.



Habitat

The Maritime Ringlet lives in salt marshes with an abundance of Salt-meadow Grass (its host plants) and Sea Lavender. Its entire life cycle occurs in this habitat, and it rarely visits flowers in adjacent habitat.



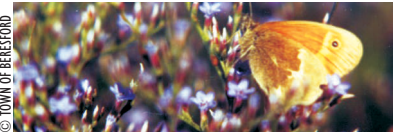
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Grassy salt marsh with Sea Lavender



© CITY OF BATHURST

Bass River salt marshes



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Maritime Ringlet on blooming Sea Lavender

The Maritime Ringlet is most easily observed during its flight season, which ranges from mid- or late July to mid- or late August.

Interesting Points

- Adult Maritime Ringlets only live for about a week!
- The caterpillar of Maritime Ringlet can survive at least 24 hours under tidal water!
- Like other butterfly species, the Maritime Ringlet has four stages in its life cycle: egg, caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa, or cocoon-like sac), and adult butterfly.



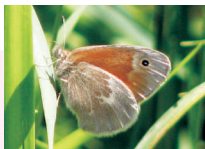
Life cycle of the Maritime Ringlet

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Similar Species

Common Ringlet:

Very similar in appearance. Best distinguished by habitat (anywhere with grass, particularly roadsides and fields) and flight time (early June to mid-July and from mid-August to mid-September).



Common Ringlet

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Threats to Survival

- Sea level rise and increased frequency and intensity of storms due to climate change.
- Naturally limited distribution and fragmented habitat.
- Encroachment on wetlands by infilling, which can negatively affect the stability of salt marshes.
- Use of recreational vehicles in salt marshes.



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Storm surges threaten salt marsh habitat



© NEW BRUNSWICK TOURISM

Boardwalk through salt marsh at Daly Point Nature Reserve, Bathurst, NB

How You Can Help

Avoid infilling of wetlands and encourage the protection and stewardship of salt marshes. Join a naturalist club and learn more about butterflies!

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: AC CDC (506) 364-2660, or NB DNR (506) 453-3826

Info: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca

Sighting Reports: www.accdc.com