

SPECIES AT RISK in New Brunswick



Maritime Ringlet

Scientific name: *Coenonympha
nipisiquit*

N.B. Status: Endangered

Maritime Ringlet

Description & Biology

The Maritime Ringlet is a small salt marsh butterfly. It has a wing span of 4cm and is beige in color, with an eyespot on the underside of its front wings. The adults or butterflies are visible from three to four weeks from mid July to mid August, depending on weather conditions. The adult lives for only a week, during which time the male butterfly must find a partner for reproduction.

Like other butterflies, the Maritime Ringlet has four stages in its life cycle: egg, caterpillar, pupa and butterfly. The female deposits the eggs on dead blades of salt meadow grass, which is the larval host plant. The caterpillar continues to grow and molt during the summer and fall, and then buries itself in the ground litter just before winter.

The following spring, the caterpillar reemerges and continues to feed until it is ready to make a cocoon and pupate. This stage takes ten days, after which the adult butterfly emerges for the short reproduction period.

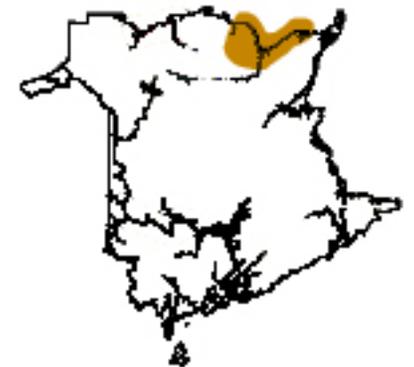
Habitat & Survival

The Maritime Ringlet lives its four life stages entirely within salt marshes, where its habitat is influenced by flooding during high tides. They are concentrated in areas where there is more of its host plant, salt meadow grass, as well as nectar sources for the adults, mainly sea lavender. They occasionally feed on other plants associated with their habitat, such as seaside goldenrod.

Coastal stewardship, such as protecting salt marshes and maintaining septic systems in good condition, is an effective approach to conserving this species.

Distribution

The Maritime Ringlet is endemic to the Bay of Chaleur region. This means that the world wide distribution of this butterfly is limited to this region.



NB Distribution of
Maritime Ringlet