
A Grasshopper

Argiacris amissuli

Insecta — Orthoptera — Acrididae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Critically imperiled/Vulnerable (G1G3)
Statewide: Critically imperiled (S1)
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

Argiacris amissuli was described in 1971 by A. B. Gurney. The name *amissuli* is from the Latin meaning “of something small which is lost,” an allusion to the Little Lost River (Gurney 1971). Apparently the male holotype is the sole specimen of this taxon.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This grasshopper is endemic to Idaho. Apparently only the type specimen was collected at a single location in Butte County during 1965. Gurney (1971) reported that as of 1971, “repeated attempts to collect specimens additional to the unique type” were unsuccessful, suggesting that the species is not abundant.

POPULATION TREND

No data are available to suggest population trend.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Gurney (1971) reported that the holotype was collected at about 1500 m of elevation in xeric habitat that was sparsely vegetated with sagebrush.

ISSUES

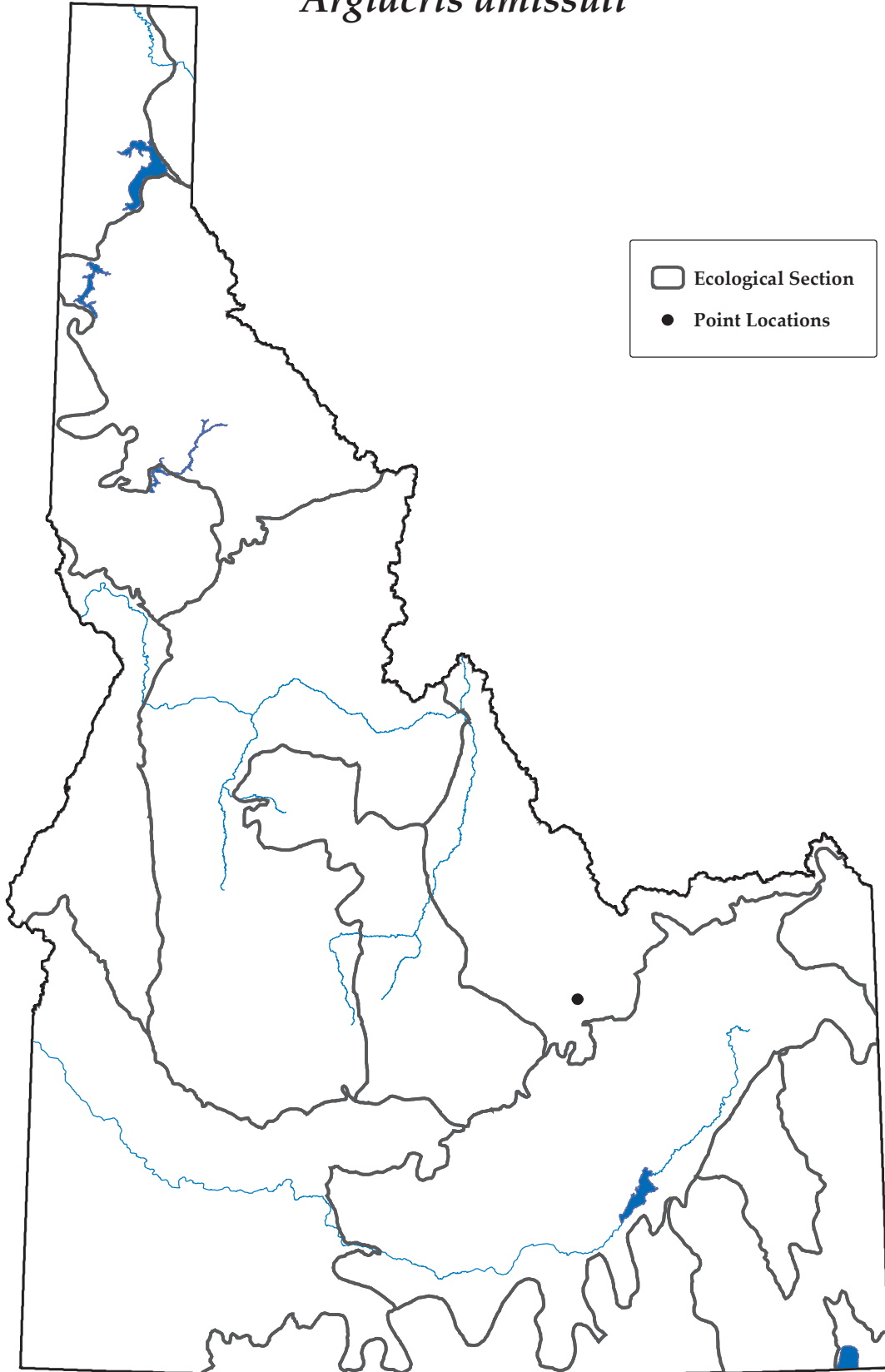
Threats to grasshoppers include pesticides and habitat modification. Although conversion of native habitat to agricultural uses has benefited some grasshopper species, there are no data to suggest that agriculture has benefited this species. Kemp (1994) reported post-drought declines of certain taxa;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

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Surveys are needed to determine the current conservational status of this species. If the species is extant, additional taxonomic investigation may be necessary, and information is needed regarding habitat requirements and conservation needs.

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

