
A Spur-throat Grasshopper

Melanoplus papyraedus

Insecta — Orthoptera — Acrididae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Critically imperiled/Imperiled (G1G2)
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

Strohecker (1963) described this taxon from a single male specimen that was a general adult. Strohecker included *M. papyraedus* in the *oreophilus* species group, which includes *M. idaho* and *M. salmonis*.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This grasshopper is endemic to Idaho. Few individuals have been collected in Idaho: 1 specimen (the holotype) has been collected in Lemhi County and 4 specimens have been collected in Adams County.

POPULATION TREND

No data are available to suggest population trend. The species has not been recorded since 1956.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Habitat at the type locality consists of open areas of sagebrush and bunch grass surrounded by patches of Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine. Specific habitat requirements or associations have not been documented. The elevation at both collection sites is about 2250 m.

ISSUES

Specific threats to this taxon are unknown. 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.

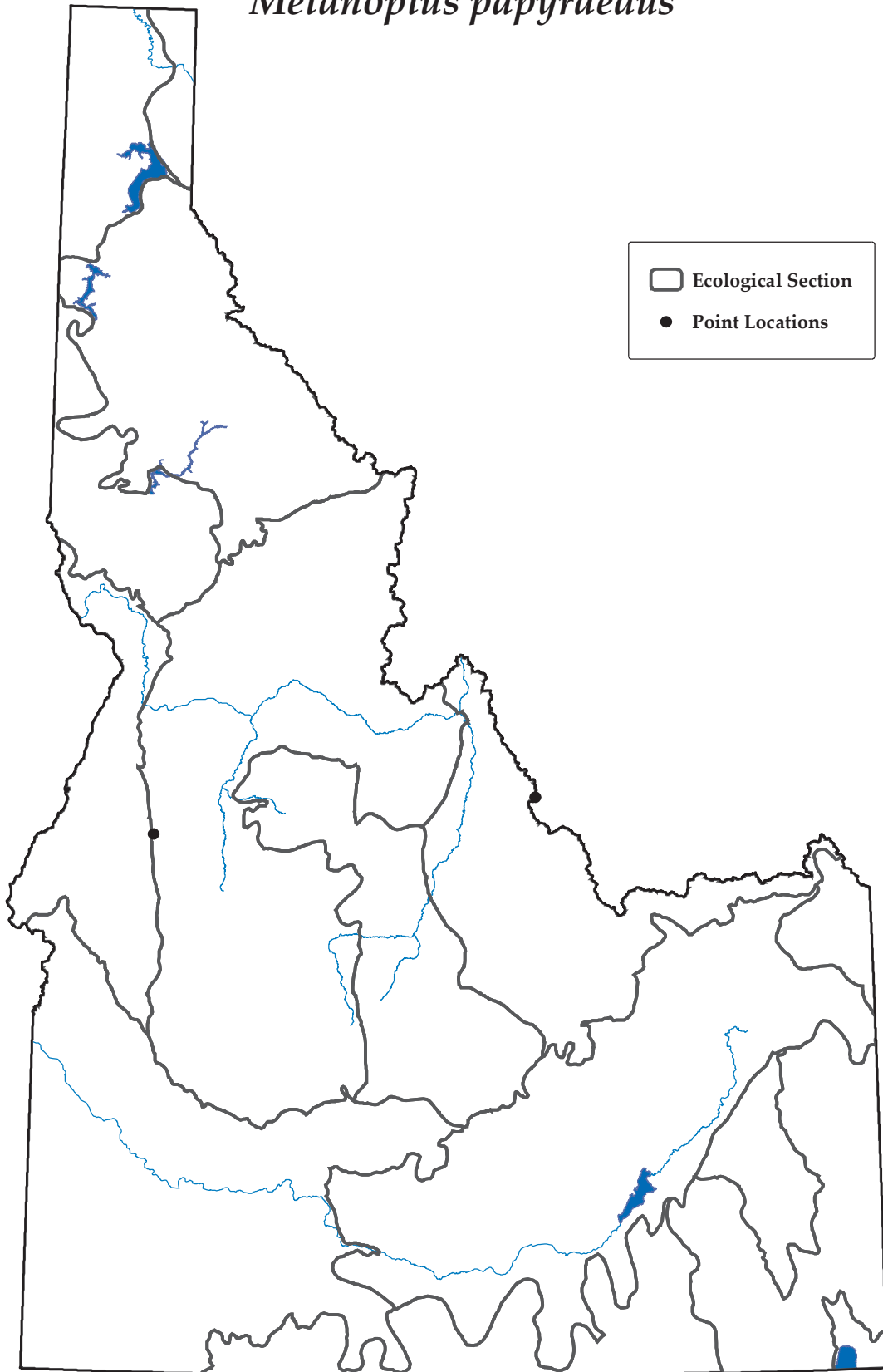
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The type specimen was collected in 1956 in Lemhi County. The only other collection of this taxon was made in Adams County in 1969. Field surveys are needed to determine

the current status of this population and to determine if additional populations occur in the region.

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

