

Cobblestone Tiger Beetle

Cicindela marginipennis

STATUS	Endangered 	Not Listed 
Endangered 	Not Listed 	Not Listed 

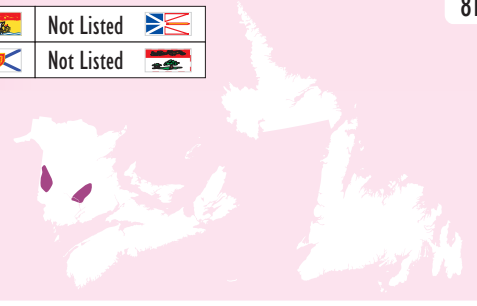


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Species Description

The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle is a small (11-14 mm long) member of the Carabidae (ground beetle) family. Adults are cobalt blue to dull olive-green with a narrow, cream-coloured band along the outer edge of its back. Its abdomen is bright red-orange and visible during flight. It has large mandibles (mouthparts) used to catch its prey.

Endemic to eastern North America; currently known from eight shoreline sites on New Brunswick's Grand Lake and Saint John River.



Habitat

The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle lives along high, sparsely-vegetated cobblestone beaches on treed islands of the Saint John River and similar habitat in Grand Lake. Spring floods are a major factor in the development and maintenance of the structure of this habitat. The predatory larvae are likely found in vertical burrows in the patches of sand and clay between cobbles.



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Cobblestone Tiger Beetle adults emerge in July and can be observed until September.

Interesting Points

- The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle was first discovered in Canada in New Brunswick in 2003.
- Tiger beetles are the fastest insect runners in the world: the fastest species can run up to 9 km/h, which is the equivalence of a human running 770 km/h!
- Tiger beetles use their speed to run down their prey.
- The Cobblestone Tiger Beetle is globally imperilled. Outside of New Brunswick it is known from only a handful of rivers in the eastern United States.



Cobblestone Tiger Beetle camouflaged in cobble habitat

Similar Species

Other Tiger Beetles:

All tiger beetles have the same general body shape, but Cobblestone Tiger beetle is the only Maritimes species with white markings on its otherwise dark back.



Common Shore Tiger Beetle

Threats to Survival

- Improper setbacks on waterfront properties and off-road vehicle activity on beaches and shores destroys habitat.
- Sedimentation events and run-off may affect habitat and availability of prey insects.
- Increased flooding due to extreme weather events.
- Populations can be quickly reduced by specimen collection.



Altered shoreline habitat



Cream-coloured band on outer edge

How You Can Help

Avoid driving off-road vehicles on shorelines and beaches. Minimize development impacts through appropriate shoreline setbacks and by avoiding the placement of structures on cobblestone beach. Support habitat protection and stewardship on the Saint John River and Grand Lake.

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