

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Invertebrate Abstract**

**Element Code:** IIORT10040

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Acrolophitus nevadensis*

**COMMON NAME:** Nevada Point-Headed Grasshopper

**SYNONYMS:**

**FAMILY:** Acrididae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Thomas, 1873.

**TYPE LOCALITY:**

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:**

**DESCRIPTION:** Point-headed grasshopper with green body. For the family Acrididae (Short-horned Grasshoppers): They get their name from their short, horn-shaped antennae, which are usually less than half the length of the body. They are 1.3-8.3 cm (0.5-3.25 in) long. These common grasshoppers have a 3-segmented tarsi and one flat, round hearing organ called tympana on each side of the first abdominal segment. The pronotum does not extend over the abdomen.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**TOTAL RANGE:** West-central New Mexico through central and northern Arizona to Utah and Nevada.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Central and northern Arizona.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** The adults are present in July-August. This family of grasshoppers produces a low buzzing sound by rubbing the roughened surfaces of their hind wings against the fore wings. Many members of this family attack crop plants. Grasshoppers are active most exclusively in the daytime. This means that courtship and mating take place under conditions in which it is

possible for the participants to view each other. It is not surprising then, that courtship, where it exists, depends heavily on visual displays involving various parts of the body.

**REPRODUCTION:** For the family, females lay eggs in large masses below the surface of the ground. During laying, the eggs are covered in a layer of foam, which hardens as it dries, giving a degree of protection from desiccation, predators, and parasites.

**FOOD HABITS:** For the family, they are exclusively vegetarian.

**HABITAT:** According to NatureServe (2003), they are found in conifer forests and shrubland/chaparral. In New Mexico they are found in clearings in Ponderosa Pine forests.

**ELEVATION:**

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Host plants are *Lappula* sp. (stickseed), *Artemisia* sp. (sagebrush), *Gutierrezia* sp. (snakeweed), and possibly *Bouteloua* sp. (grama).

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown.

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

<b>ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:</b>	None
<b>STATE STATUS:</b>	None
<b>OTHER STATUS:</b>	None

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Population surveys, and life history and range distribution studies need to be performed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

Borror, D.J. & R.E. White. 1970. A Field Guide to Insects, America north of Mexico. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston, Massachusetts. Pp. 78.  
[Http://www.sdvc.uwyo.edu/grasshopper/nmfsacne.htm](http://www.sdvc.uwyo.edu/grasshopper/nmfsacne.htm).

NatureServe. 2003. An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 1.8. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: March 4, 2004).

Preston-Mafham, R. & K. Preston-Mafham. 1993. The Encyclopedia of Land Invertebrate Behavior. The MIT Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts. Pp. 48, 55, 137, 249.

#### MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Some of these are called locusts from the Latin word for grasshopper.

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