

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

**Invertebrate Abstract**

**Element Code:** IILEPE2190

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Callophrys fotis*

**COMMON NAME:** Early Elfin; Desert Elfin; Fotis Hairstreak; Strecker's Elfin; Arizona Gray Elfin

**SYNONYMS:** *Incisalia fotis*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Strecker, 1878.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Arizona.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** One of ca. 61 species in genus *Callophrys*. Clench (1961) redefined *Callophrys* as an omnibus genus comprised of six subgenera, of which *Incisalia* is one.

**DESCRIPTION:** *Callophrys fotis* has a wingspan of  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches (1.9-2.8). The upper side is gray and the under side is brownish gray. The base of the hindwing is darker and outer half is gray to yellow-gray. The hindwing scallops are small.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** They have a wingspan of  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1  $\frac{1}{8}$  inches (1.9-2.8). The upper side is gray and the under side is brownish gray. The base of the hindwing is darker and outer half is gray to yellow-gray. The hindwing scallops are small.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo (Opler *in* <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/byflyusa/usa/285.htm>).  
Color photo (*In* <http://www.nearctica.com/butter/plate8/Cfotis.htm>).  
Black and white drawing (Tilden, 1986:pl. 31).

**TOTAL RANGE:** Eastern Mojave Desert of California from Panamint to Providence Mountains; east across Nevada to Utah, northern Arizona, western Colorado and northwestern New Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Northern Arizona; Apache, Coconino, Mohave and Navajo counties.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** Unknown

**REPRODUCTION:** The males perch near host plants on trees and shrubs to wait for females. The females lay the eggs singly on flower buds of the host. The caterpillars feed on buds, flowers and young fruits. Pupae are formed in litter at base of host plants and overwinter in that stage. The adults fly March to May.

**FOOD HABITS:** Caterpillars feed on reproductive portions of cliff rose (*Cowania stansburiana*). The adults nectar at flowers.

**HABITAT:** Desert mountains and canyons, usually in pinyon or pinyon-juniper habitat. The primary habitat feature is the presence of substantial populations of the larval foodplants: Cliff rose (*Cowania mexicana* variety *stansburiana* or other *Cowiana*).

**ELEVATION:** Unknown

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Usually in pinyon or pinyon-juniper communities.

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:**

**STATE STATUS:**

**OTHER STATUS:**

Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

Unknown

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

Unknown

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

Unknown

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

Unknown

**SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

**REFERENCES:**

- BISON, Biota Information System of New Mexico, Available at [http://www.cnr.vt.edu/fishex/nmex\\_main/species213835.htm](http://www.cnr.vt.edu/fishex/nmex_main/species213835.htm)
- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 6, 2002).
- Nearctica, Available at <http://www.nearctica.com/butter/plate8/Cfotis>.
- Opler, P. USGS, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Available at <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/dist/lepid/byflyusa/usa/285.htm>.
- Tilden, J.W. 1986. A Field Guide to Western Butterflies, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA, pp. 173.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 2002-06-21 (AMS)

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