

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code: IIORT14020

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Eumorsea balli* Hebard

COMMON NAME: Ball's Monkey Grasshopper

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Eumastacidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Hebard, M. 1935. Studies in the Orthoptera of Arizona. Part I. New genera, species and geographic races. Transactions of the American Entomological Society 61:111-153

TYPE LOCALITY: Ramsey Canyon above the box, Huachuca Mts., Cochise County, Arizona, USA.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: ANSP (Philadelphia, male).

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are 1,200 species in this family.

DESCRIPTION: Monkey Grasshoppers are distinguishable from katydids and crickets by their short stubby antennae. The head of these slim insects is long and set at an angle to the thorax. Many are brightly colored, while some resemble leaves or sticks. The hind legs are thin and elongate, with distinctive spines on the lower half of the tibiae. At rest, many species sit with their hind legs splayed out sideways. The antennae are shorter than the front femora. The majority of them are wingless.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: They are distinguishable from katydids and crickets by their short stubby antennae.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

TOTAL RANGE: Arizona endemic, Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: See "Total Range."

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: They are diurnal and readily fly in the sun, and they resemble damselflies in several respects. As a group, grasshoppers (along with katydids and crickets) are well known for their abilities to jump and particularly for singing by males (females are typically silent). Grasshoppers usually sing diurnally in the warm season.

REPRODUCTION: For the family mating involves the male on top of the female. Eggs are laid in the ground or in detritus.

FOOD HABITS: Herbivores. This family feeds on a variety of plant types ranging from grasses and sedges to desert shrubs and ferns.

HABITAT: Shrubland/chaparral.

ELEVATION:

PLANT COMMUNITY:

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None
STATE STATUS: None
OTHER STATUS: None

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Studies to determine distribution, life history factors, and population status need to be performed.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Possibly DOD – Fort Huachuca Military Reservation and USFS – Coronado National Forest.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

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- NatureServe. 2004. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 4.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: January 06, 2005).
- Resh, V.H., and R.T. Carde. 2003. Encyclopedia of Insects. Academic Press. New York, New York. Pp: 883.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

This family contains several species of relatively uncommon grasshoppers that are found in the chaparral country of the Southwest, where they usually occur on the uppermost branches of bushes.

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