

COSEWIC
Status Appraisal Summary

on the

Frosted Elfin
Callophrys irus

in Canada

EXTIRPATED
2010

COSEWIC
Committee on the Status
of Endangered Wildlife
in Canada



COSEPAC
Comité sur la situation
des espèces en péril
au Canada

COSEWIC status appraisal summaries are working documents used in assigning the status of wildlife species suspected of being at risk in Canada. This document may be cited as follows:

COSEWIC. 2010. COSEWIC status appraisal summary on the Frosted Elfin *Callophrys irus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii pp.
(www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm).

Production note:

This status appraisal summary constitutes a review of classification of the Frosted Elfin *Callophrys irus* in Canada which was last assessed by COSEWIC in 2000. The 2000 COSEWIC Status Report on the Frosted Elfin *Callophrys irus* in Canada is posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry at this link: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/speciesDetails_e.cfm?sid=590

COSEWIC would like to acknowledge Ross A. Layberry for writing the status appraisal summary on the Frosted Elfin *Callophrys irus* in Canada, prepared under contract with Environment Canada. This status appraisal summary was overseen and edited by Laurence Packer, Co-chair of the Arthropods Specialist Subcommittee.

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Également disponible en français sous le titre Sommaire du statut de l'espèce du COSEPAC sur le Lutin givré (*Callophrys irus*) au Canada.

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COSEWIC Assessment Summary

Assessment Summary – April 2010

Common name

Frosted Elfin

Scientific name

Callophrys irus

Status

Extirpated

Reason for designation

** A reason for designation is not specified when a review of classification is conducted by means of a status appraisal summary.*

Occurrence

Ontario

Status history

Extirpated by 1988. Designated Extirpated in April 1999. Status re-examined and confirmed in May 2000 and in April 2010.

Quantitative Analysis:

Change in estimated probability of extirpation:

yes no

Details:

No additional data since previous assessment.

Summary and Additional Considerations:

This species is unquestionably extirpated in Ontario and Canada. There have been no reliable sightings since at least 1988, despite searches by experienced observers. The writer could find no evidence of any attempt at reintroduction if the species. So the previous status of Extirpated should be maintained.

List of reviewers:

The Status Appraisal Summary was sent to the following jurisdictions for review:

- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Parks Canada Agency
- Province of Ontario (Alan Dextrase and Michael Oldham)
- Members of the COSEWIC Arthropods Species Specialist Subcommittee
- Members of the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee (Donna Hurlburt and Dan Benoit)

Sources of information:

Dextrase, A., 2009. Personal communication to Laurence Packer.

TEA 1999: Toronto Entomological Association Publication 31-1999: Butterflies of Ontario and Summaries of Lepidoptera Encountered in Ontario in 1998.

TEA 2000: Toronto Entomological Association Publication 32-2000: Butterflies of Ontario and Summaries of Lepidoptera Encountered in Ontario in 1999.

TEA 2006: Toronto Entomological Association Publication 36-2006: Ontario Lepidoptera 2003-2004.

TEA 2007: Toronto Entomological Association Publication 37-2007: Ontario Lepidoptera 2005.

TEA 2008: Toronto Entomological Association Publication 38-2008: Ontario Lepidoptera 2006-2007.

TEA 2009: Toronto Entomological Association Publication 39-2008: Ontario Lepidoptera 2008.



COSEWIC HISTORY

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) was created in 1977 as a result of a recommendation at the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference held in 1976. It arose from the need for a single, official, scientifically sound, national listing of wildlife species at risk. In 1978, COSEWIC designated its first species and produced its first list of Canadian species at risk. Species designated at meetings of the full committee are added to the list. On June 5, 2003, the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) was proclaimed. SARA establishes COSEWIC as an advisory body ensuring that species will continue to be assessed under a rigorous and independent scientific process.

COSEWIC MANDATE

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assesses the national status of wild species, subspecies, varieties, or other designatable units that are considered to be at risk in Canada. Designations are made on native species for the following taxonomic groups: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, arthropods, molluscs, vascular plants, mosses, and lichens.

COSEWIC MEMBERSHIP

COSEWIC comprises members from each provincial and territorial government wildlife agency, four federal entities (Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada Agency, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Federal Biodiversity Information Partnership, chaired by the Canadian Museum of Nature), three non-government science members and the co-chairs of the species specialist subcommittees and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge subcommittee. The Committee meets to consider status reports on candidate species.

DEFINITIONS (2010)

Wildlife Species	A species, subspecies, variety, or geographically or genetically distinct population of animal, plant or other organism, other than a bacterium or virus, that is wild by nature and is either native to Canada or has extended its range into Canada without human intervention and has been present in Canada for at least 50 years.
Extinct (X)	A wildlife species that no longer exists.
Extirpated (XT)	A wildlife species no longer existing in the wild in Canada, but occurring elsewhere.
Endangered (E)	A wildlife species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.
Threatened (T)	A wildlife species likely to become endangered if limiting factors are not reversed.
Special Concern (SC)*	A wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.
Not at Risk (NAR)**	A wildlife species that has been evaluated and found to be not at risk of extinction given the current circumstances.
Data Deficient (DD)***	A category that applies when the available information is insufficient (a) to resolve a species' eligibility for assessment or (b) to permit an assessment of the species' risk of extinction.

* Formerly described as "Vulnerable" from 1990 to 1999, or "Rare" prior to 1990.

** Formerly described as "Not In Any Category", or "No Designation Required."

*** Formerly described as "Indeterminate" from 1994 to 1999 or "ISIBD" (insufficient scientific information on which to base a designation) prior to 1994. Definition of the (DD) category revised in 2006.



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The Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, provides full administrative and financial support to the COSEWIC Secretariat.