



Insects

## Acadian Swordgrass Moth

*Xylena thoracica*

**Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)**

**Class:** Insects (*Insecta*)

**Order:** Butterflies, Skippers, And Moths (*Lepidoptera*)

**Family:** Noctuid Moths (*Noctuidae*)



### General comments:

6 modern EOs; habitat (pitch/jack pine, bogs?) probably not limited to PPSO barrens; northern ME pine stands under-surveyed; rarely collected in East; could be common in northern ME (RW); host is blueberry, others ; JC: removed State SC status 2025

### Species Conservation Range Maps:

Town Map: [Xylena thoracica\\_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Xylena thoracica\\_HUC12.pdf](#)

### SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

**High Regional Conservation  
Priority:**

**NatureServe:**

Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3

### Habitat Associations:

**Formation:** Northeastern Upland Forest

**Macrogroup:** Acadian-Northern Appalachian Forest

**Macrogroup:** Appalachian Oak - Pine Forest & Woodland

**Macrogroup:** North Atlantic Coastal Forest & Woodland

### Threats

No Threats Currently Assigned to Acadian Swordgrass Moth or other Priority 3 SGCN.

### Species Level Conservation Actions:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Acadian Swordgrass Moth or other Priority 3 SGCN.

### Conservation Actions Associated with the Dry Barrens Lepidoptera Guild:

Acadian Swordgrass Moth *Xylena thoracica*

## Priority 3 SGCN



| Conservation Action                                                                                                                                                                       | Category           | Biological Priority | Type     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Communication with Maine Forest Service and Bureau of Pest Control is necessary to prevent unintended mortality from aerial pesticide spraying (e.g., for spongy moth and spruce budworm) | Species Management | high                | on-going |

## Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Other Threat

| Conservation Action                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Category           | Biological Priority | Type     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Conduct a statewide review of potential high quality barrens habitat that is threatened by ecological succession and identify strategic habitat restoration actions for implementation by key conservation partners. | Habitat Management | critical            | on-going |

## Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Removing or Reducing Human Maintenance
- Fire and Fire Suppression

| Conservation Action                                                                                                                    | Category           | Biological Priority | Type     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|
| A concerted effort should be made to conserve as much of the remaining unprotected sandplain grasslands and PP/SO barrens as possible. | Habitat Management | critical            | on-going |

## Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Commercial and Industrial Areas
- Roads and Railroads
- Housing and Urban Areas
- Other Threat
- Removing or Reducing Human Maintenance
- Fire and Fire Suppression
- Mining and Quarrying

| Conservation Action                                                              | Category | Biological Priority | Type |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|------|
| Increase MDIFW staff capacity for survey and conservation of SGCN invertebrates. | Policy   | critical            | new  |

## Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Education & Outreach
- Lack of knowledge
- Resource Needs

**Acadian Swordgrass Moth** *Xylena thoracica***Priority 3 SGCN**

| Conservation Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Category        | Biological Priority | Type     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Develop/distribute guidelines and outreach materials to inform conservation partners, land use managers, and the general public about the impacts of pesticides on native pollinators and to promote the alternative use of Integrated Pest Management practices. | Public Outreach | moderate            | on-going |

**Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action**

- Education & Outreach
- Other Threat

**Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:**

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4.

**Habitat Based Conservation Actions:**

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, threats, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work*