

Sand-verbena Moth



Sand-verbena Moth feeding on yellow sand-verbena flowers

* What's Important:

- Sand-verbena Moth is the only endangered moth in Canada
- it is found at eight sites in the world; all in the Georgia Basin-Puget Sound region of BC and Washington State
- it is dependent on large populations of a single host plant (yellow sand-verbena) that occur in coastal sand dunes and spits
- it is threatened by invasive species, coastal development, vehicle use, and intensive recreation



Sand-verbena Moth

Identification

brown wings with distinctive dark and light streaking and speckles

golden brown cape



Yellow Sand-verbena

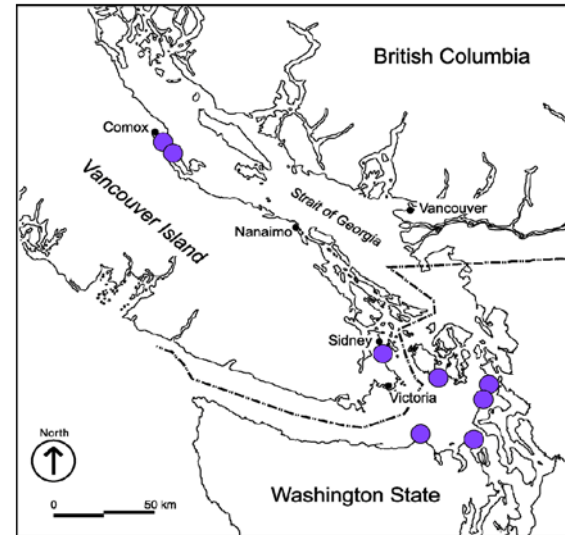
fleshy succulent leaves (sometimes sticky and sand covered)

bright yellow flowers shaped as trumpets

occurs in dry, sandy soils in coastal sites

Background: Sand-verbena Moth (*Copablepharon fuscum*) was discovered by two entomologists - Jim Troubridge and Lars Crabo, in the early 1990s. It was first captured in sand dunes at Whidbey Island, WA and near Sidney, BC. It is part of a group of moths, called *Copablepharons*, that are occur in sand dunes and dry soils in western North America.

Sand-verbena Moth flies from the middle of May to early July at dusk and during the night. It can be seen moving from flowers of yellow sand-verbena much like a bumblebee feeding on clover. Larvae are pale grey-green and burrow into the sand during the day; they emerge at night to feed on the leaves and flowers of yellow sand-verbena.



Location of known Sand-verbena Moth populations in BC and Washington. They are concentrated in the southern portion of the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound. Most of the populations are isolated from one another by water and unsuitable habitat making it difficult for Sand-verbena Moth to move to new sites.

* What you can do

- help protect sand dunes by supporting projects to protect or restore these unique ecosystems
- reduce recreation impacts on sand dunes and beaches such as intensive trampling, beach fires, or vehicle use that causes damage to yellow sand-verbena plants
- participate in projects to remove Scotch broom and invasive grasses from sand dunes and beaches

For more information see the COSEWIC status on Sand-verbena Moth at www.cosewic.gc.ca or contact Jennifer Heron (BC Invertebrate Species at Risk Biologist at (604) 222-6759 or Jennifer.Heron@gov.bc.ca). This handout was written and produced by Nick Page (www.raincoastappliedecology.ca)