



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

Agarodes libalis Spring-loving Psiloneuran Caddisfly

No photo available

Identification*: Caddisflies are slender, elongated insects; antennae at least as long as body; 4-winged, holds together over body like a roof; long, slender legs. Larvae: Similar to a caterpillar but larval stages can not be identified to species.

Measurements*: 1.5 – 25 mm in length.

Taxonomic comments: No recognized subspecies.

Status: Global rank is **G1G2** state rank is **S1**.

Habitat: Small cool artesian springs with sandy substrates.

Range: The range of this species is not fully understood but includes Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida.

Food habits*: Some species of larvae eat only plant materials while others are predators.

Reproduction: Immature stages are unknown. *Larvae live in rapidly moving streams where they construct cases made of stream debris (pebbles, sticks, etc.) and silk. When ready to hatch, the larvae attach their cases to the underside of stones and use their mandibles to cut their way out. Pupae then crawl out of the water and molt to become adults. Larval case shape is species specific.

Reason for decline: This species requires clean spring water habitat. Therefore it is very vulnerable to pollution and siltation.

Interesting facts: This species burrows into shifting sand, an unusual behavior for caddisflies.

Known distribution in Louisiana: none for Louisiana

Dates of documented observations are: no records available.

References

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