



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

tel: (508) 389-6360, fax: (508) 389-7891

www.nhesp.org

Pale Green Pinion Moth

Lithophane viridipallens

State Status: **Special Concern**

Federal Status: **None**

Description: The Pale Green Pinion Moth (*Lithophane viridipallens*) is a noctuid moth with a wingspan of 38-42 mm. The forewing is pale, greenish-gray, with a rust-colored reniform spot finely outlined in black. A black patch of scales proximal to the reniform spot separates it from an obscure orbicular spot. A diffuse, black median line may be present. There is a fine, black basal dash, as well as faint, obscure black lines and wedges across the otherwise uniformly-colored forewing. The hind wing is grayish-brown, darker towards the outer margin and with a dark discal spot. The head and thorax are concolorous with the greenish-gray of the forewing, and the abdomen is of a color similar to the hind wing.

Habitat: In Massachusetts, the Pale Green Pinion Moth inhabits acidic, shrubby wetlands on the coastal plain, including wooded swamps, shrub swamps, shrubby bogs, and coastal plain pondshores.

Life History: In Massachusetts, adult Pale Green Pinion Moths emerge in October and early November and overwinter, flying on warm nights in late winter and early spring, at which time mating and oviposition occur. Larval host plants have not been documented in Massachusetts, but presumably consist of a variety of acidic wetland shrubs (Wagner et al. 2011). Larvae complete development and pupate by early June.

Geographic Range: The Pale Green Pinion Moth is spottily distributed along the coastal plain from Massachusetts south to New Jersey, with a more continuous range along the coastal plain from southern New Jersey south to Georgia and west to Louisiana (Wagner et al. 2011). In Massachusetts, it has been documented in the southeastern part of the state, including Plymouth and Bristol Counties.



Lithophane viridipallens • Specimen from NJ: Cumberland Co., Dividing Creek, collected 26 Oct 1993 by D.F. Schweitzer

Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

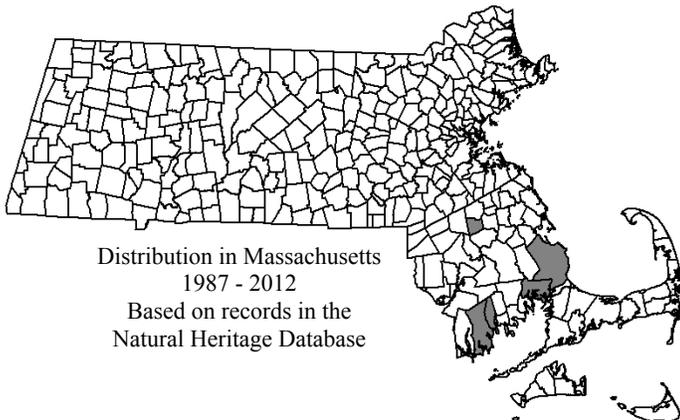
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Status and Threats: The Pale Green Pinion Moth is threatened by habitat loss and hydrologic alteration that disrupts the natural seasonal flooding of its habitat. Other potential threats include introduced generalist parasitoids, insecticide spraying, and light pollution.

Literature Cited

Wagner, D.L., D.F. Schweitzer, J.B. Sullivan, and R.C. Reardon. 2011. *Owlet Caterpillars of Eastern North America*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 576 pp.

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