Butterflies and Moths of North America

Occurrence maps, species accounts, checklists, and photographs

Home

Site Navigation

- Taxonomic Groups
- Map Search
- Species Search
- Image Gallery

More Information

- About
  - Disclaimer
  - Acknowledgments
  - Contact Us
- FAQ
- Glossary
- Links
- News

Announcement

We are seeking skilled lepidopterists to serve as state coordinators.
Find out more.

Home

Species Detail

Aphrodite Fritillary

Speyeria aphrodite (Fabricius, 1787)

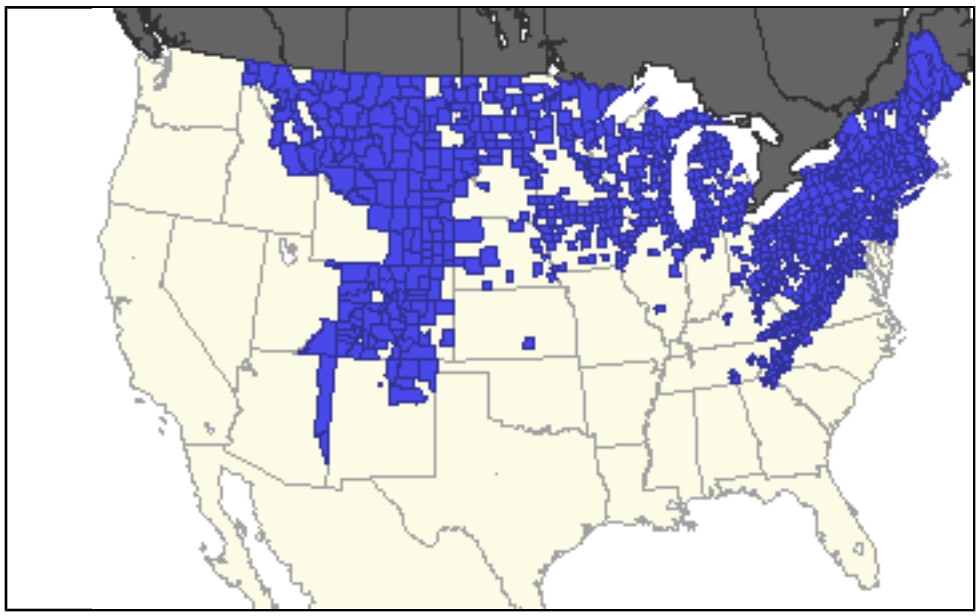
Attributes of *Speyeria aphrodite*

Family: Brush-footed Butterflies (*Nymphalidae*)

Subfamily: Longwings (*Heliconiinae*)

Identification: Geographically variable. Upperside reddish orange-brown; male forewing with black spot below cell and with no black scales on veins. Underside of hindwing has pale submarginal band narrow or missing.

Documented Records for *Speyeria aphrodite*



Life history: Males patrol for females during warm hours. Females walk about on the ground to lay single eggs near violets. First-stage caterpillars do not feed, but overwinter until spring, when they eat young leaves of violets.

Flight: One brood from mid-June to mid-September.

Wing span: 2 1/2 - 3 1/4 inches (6.3 - 8.3 cm).

Caterpillar hosts: Various violet species including northern downy violet (Viola fimbriatula) and lance-leaved violet (V. lanceolata).

Adult food: Nectar from flowers of milkweed and viper \'s bugloss, among others.

Habitat: Moist prairies, high mountain meadows, openings in barrens, brushland, dry fields, open oak woods, bogs.

Range: Canada south of the taiga from Nova Scotia west through the northern Midwest and Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains, then south in the mountains to east-central Arizona and northern New Mexico; south in the Appalachians to northern Georgia.

Conservation: Not usually required.

Display alternate map range:

North America

Submit

NatureServe Global Status:
G5 - Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.

Management needs: None reported.

Hosted and maintained by the Big Sky Institute at Montana State University
and the NBII Mountain Prairie Information Node.
To report technical difficulties or errors, Contact Us.