

FLORIDA INTERTIDAL FIREFLY

Micronaspis floridana



Order: Coleoptera
Family: Lampyridae
FNAI Ranks: G3?/S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none

Description: This is a medium sized (8-12mm) oval shaped firefly with a mostly-clear pronotal shield (Faust 2017).

Similar Species: Many other adult fireflies, and especially males of *Photinus* and *Pyrractomena*, may look similar to a non-expert. Larvae can be separated from other genera by having four rows of backward-facing tergal tubercles that resemble spines on each segment of the abdomen (Vaz et al. 2021).

Habitat: This species occurs in the intertidal zone of mangroves and salt marsh (Faust 2017, Vaz et al. 2021).

Seasonal Occurrence: This species may be active year round, but is most active from March to May (Faust 2017). Maximum flashing occurs beginning 40 minutes after sunset and declining by 90 minutes after sunset (Vaz et al. 2021).

Florida Distribution: This species is known from the southern two-thirds of the peninsula including the Keys.

Range-wide Distribution: This species is known from coastal areas in the southern two-thirds of the Florida peninsula, the Florida Keys, and the Bahamas.

Conservation Status: This species has been documented at more than 20 coastal locations in the Keys and the southern 2/3 of the peninsula and there appears to be much unsurveyed suitable habitat. It is especially vulnerable to light pollution, which is prevalent in the areas it occurs. It occurs in areas with mangroves and fiddler crabs and salt marsh mud flats, with most occurrences on managed lands and so do not appear to be threatened by development.

Protection and Management: Occurrences should be managed for mangroves, fiddler crabs, and salt marsh. Light pollution and pesticide use should be avoided.

Florida Intertidal Firefly

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References: Faust 2017, Vaz et al. 2021



adult (© Richard Joyce)



larva (© Ted MacRae)