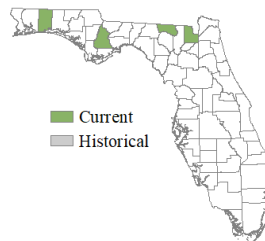


OKEFENOKEE ZALE MOTH

Zale perculata



Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Erebidae

FNAI Ranks: G2?/S2

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: none

Description: Adults are large, dark brown moths with black and pale green markings. Larvae are black with white and orange markings.

Similar Species: Adults may be somewhat similar to *Zale aeruginosa*; larvae are very distinctive (Schweitzer et al. 2011).

Habitat: This species usually occurs in cypress swamps where the foodplant *Pieris phyllyreifolia* grows on the tree trunks, but at Eglin Air Force Base it occurs in and near ravines where its host plant grows.

Seasonal Occurrence: Adults are active in March and April and larvae are present in May and June.

Florida Distribution: There are scattered occurrences in the Panhandle and northern peninsula.

Range-wide Distribution: northern Florida and southern Georgia

Conservation Status: There are less than five recent and extant populations known of this species, but its range encompasses much of northernmost Florida. It appears to have very specific habitat requirements and the larval host plant is relatively uncommon.

Protection and Management: Occurrences should be managed for the host plant.

References: Schweitzer et al. 2011

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