

Possible *Schinia luscens* (Leadplant flower moth sighting) Douglas County, MN

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The current range map for *Schinia luscens* by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does not include Grant or Douglas County, both of which would have supported historical populations. Many small but high quality prairie remnants are present in this region. I search for for *S. luscens* adults during their flight period in prairies that had large patches of its host plant *Amorpha canescens* to determine whether the species was still present in Grant or Douglas County.

I searched prairie remnants within the ~6400 hectare Echinacea Project study area. From the 45 study sites, a subset was determined only remnants with no history of being tilled and exhibiting proportionally large host plant populations. All Sites within townships T-127-N R-40-W or T-127-N R-41-W

#### Sites Selected for Search

- Koons Hill (T-127-N R-40-W section 24) (Privately owned)
- Staffanson Prairie Preserve (T-127-N R-40-W section 18) (The Nature Conservancy)
- Yellow Orchid Hill (T-127-N R-41-W section 13) (Privately owned)
- Hulzebos Hills (T-127-N R-41-W section 13) (Privately owned)
- Torgenson (North and South) (T-127-N R-40-W section 31) (Privately owned)
- Hegg Lake WMA (T-127-N R-40-W section 26 and 27) (MN DNR)
- Bengston Waterfowl Production Area (T-127-N R-40-W section 23) (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)

I systematically searched each site. In most sites each *A. canescens* could be approached and each inflorescence quickly scanned for the presence of adult *S. luscens*. There were a few exceptions to this rule Bengston, Staffanson, and Hegg were all too large to search each plant. So for Bengston, Staffanson, and Hegg 4 hours was allotted for each site to search as many *A. canescens* as possible. Searches were conducted between June 28, 2023 until July 21, 2023.

One possible *S. luscens* individual was located at Bengston WPA June 28 2023. The individual was found on a leadplant inflorescence at coordinates 45.7907966, -95.6573944. The plant was marked with a large pink flag and the stem was marked with a twist tie. Pictures of the individual are posted below.

Future search recommendations would be to continue searching the following sites Staffanson, Bengston, and the Hulzebos Hills. More time spent in Bengston especially could help determine if there is a truly resident population there or if this individual was just passing through.





