

Butterflies of Colorado

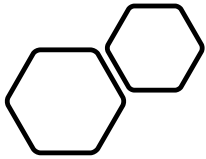
Nymphalidae: Satyrinae



Satyrinae

- Common (Ochre) Ringlet
- Common Wood-Nymph
- Small Wood-Nymph
- Canyonland Satyr
- Ridings' Satyr
- Common Alpine
- Chryxus Arctic
- Uhler's Arctic
- Jutta Arctic



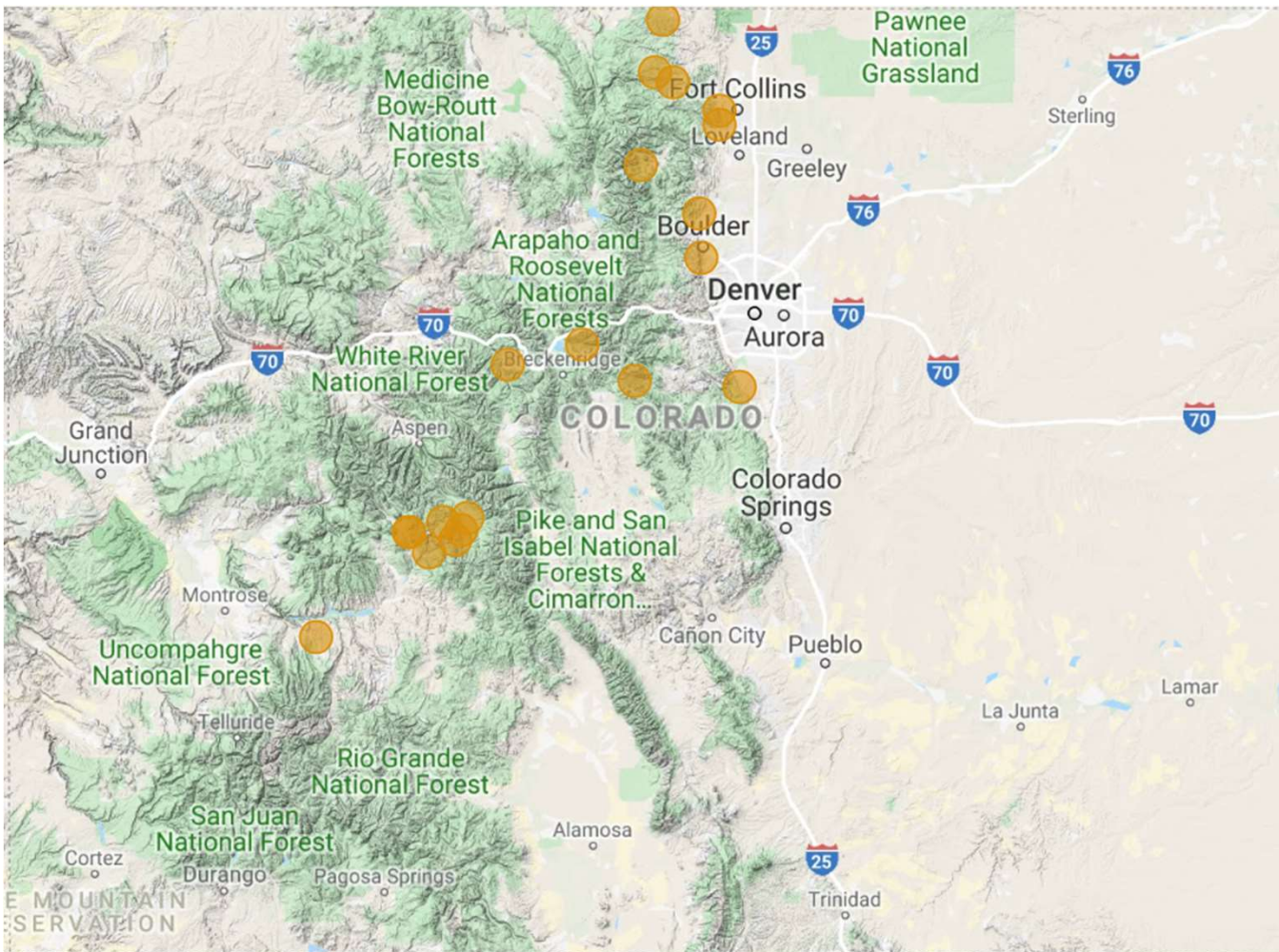


Common (Ochre) Ringlet (*Coecnonympha tullia ochracea*)

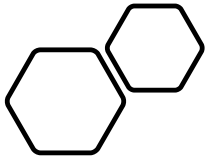
- The underside of the forewing is an orange-brown color with a prominent **pale-rimmed black eyespot at the tip of the forewing**. The **hindwing below is darker gray-green with an irregular white median band and often some small eyespots along outer edge**. Wing surfaces are a pale orange brown above.
- Wingspan: Small; 1 to 1.5 inches.
- Habitat: Open grassy areas in a wide variety of habitats; fields, grasslands, meadows; plains, foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: May to September. Caterpillars overwinter.
- Larval Foodplant: Grasses and rushes.
- Males perch and patrol for receptive females. Female lays eggs singly on leaves and flowers of the host plant, which are then eaten by hatching larvae. Overwinters as a chrysalis.



Distribution Map (*Coecnonympa tullia ochracea*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record

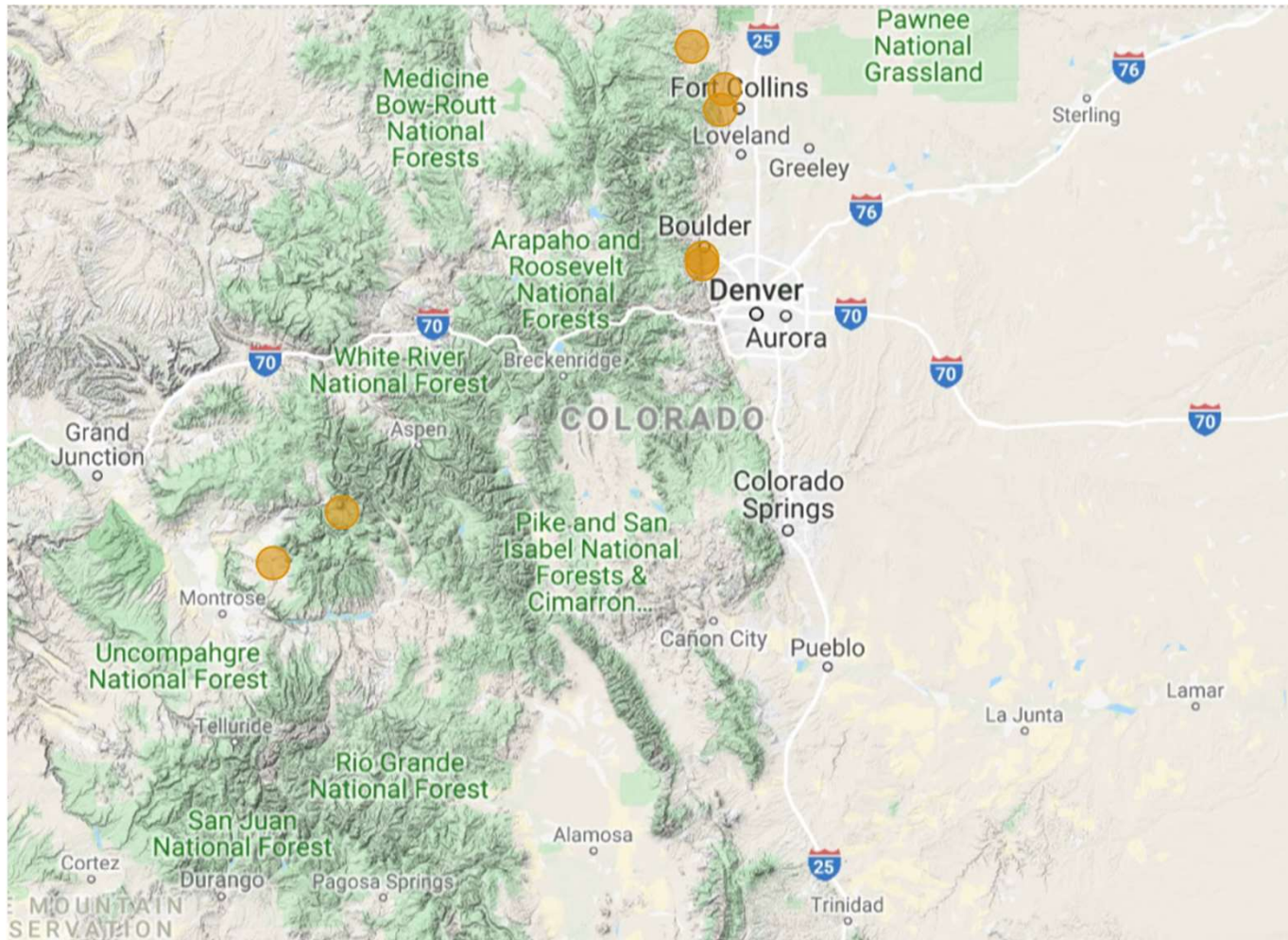


Common Wood-Nymph (*Cercyonis pegala*)

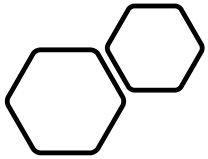
- Overall soft brown below with a dark broken striated pattern and **two equally large yellow-ringed black eyespots at tip of forewing**. **Hindwing below shows a row of similar, but much smaller eyespots**. Above, brown with some small eyespots possible.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 3/4 to 2 5/8 inches.
- Habitat: Moist grasslands, prairies, hillsides, open meadows and woodlands; plains, foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: Late May to mid-September; one brood.
- Larval Foodplant: A variety of grasses (Poaceae).
- Males patrol for females with a dipping flight through the vegetation. In late summer, females lay eggs singly on host plant leaves. Caterpillars hatch but do not feed, instead hibernating until spring



Distribution Map (*Cercyonis pegala*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record

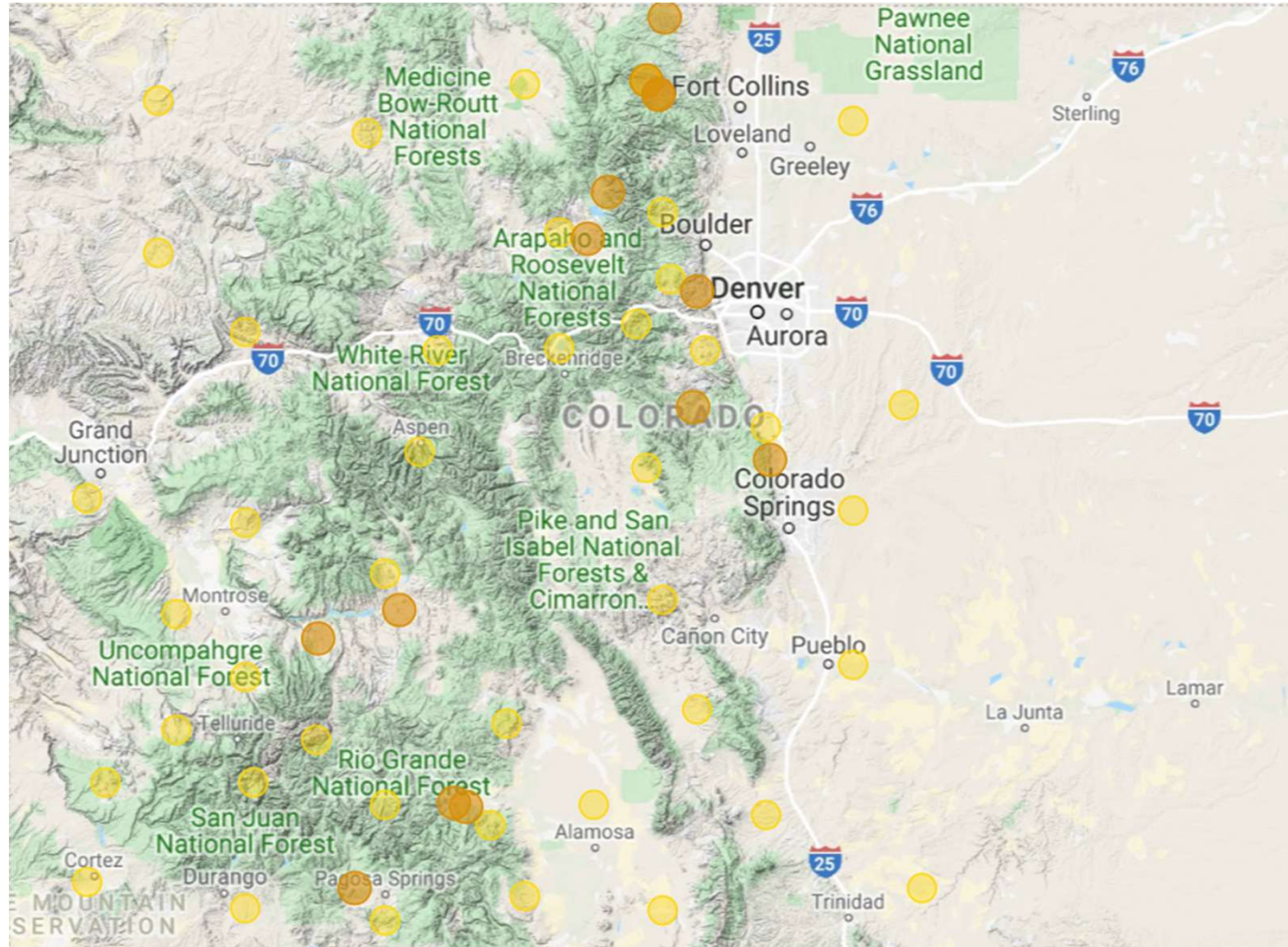


Small Wood-Nymph (*Cercyonis oetus*)

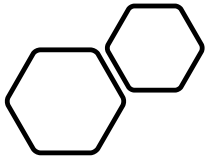
- Soft brown above, with a **black spot on forewing**. **Brown below with upper black spot on forewing larger, encircled by a tan ring, with a white center spot**. Lower eyespot is smaller and closer to the wing edge; often hidden by hindwing.
- Wingspan: Small; 1 1/4 to 1 3/4 inches.
- Habitat: Open woodland, brushy and grassy flats, hillsides, meadows; plains, foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: June to August; one brood. Caterpillars overwinter.
- Larval Foodplant: Grasses.
- Is the tonal counterpart of the Ochre Ringlet – the one small and bright, the other small and dusky, both flitting in uncounted numbers across the western grasslands



Distribution Map (*Cercyonis oetus*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record



Canyonland Satyr (*Cyllopsis pertepida*)

- Above, reddish-brown with some faint orange in the hindwing postmedian band and 2 black spots in the marginal band. On the hindwing below, the “gemmed” (gray patches with metallic gemlike markings) pattern is diagnostic in Colorado.
- Wingspan: Small; 1.5 to 1 3/4 inches.
- Habitat: Open pinyon-juniper and oak woodlands, ravines, rocky canyons and brushy hillsides.
- Flight Times: Late June to August; 1 brood.
- Larval Foodplant: Grasses
- Adults do not feed and have been observed only rarely visiting flowers.

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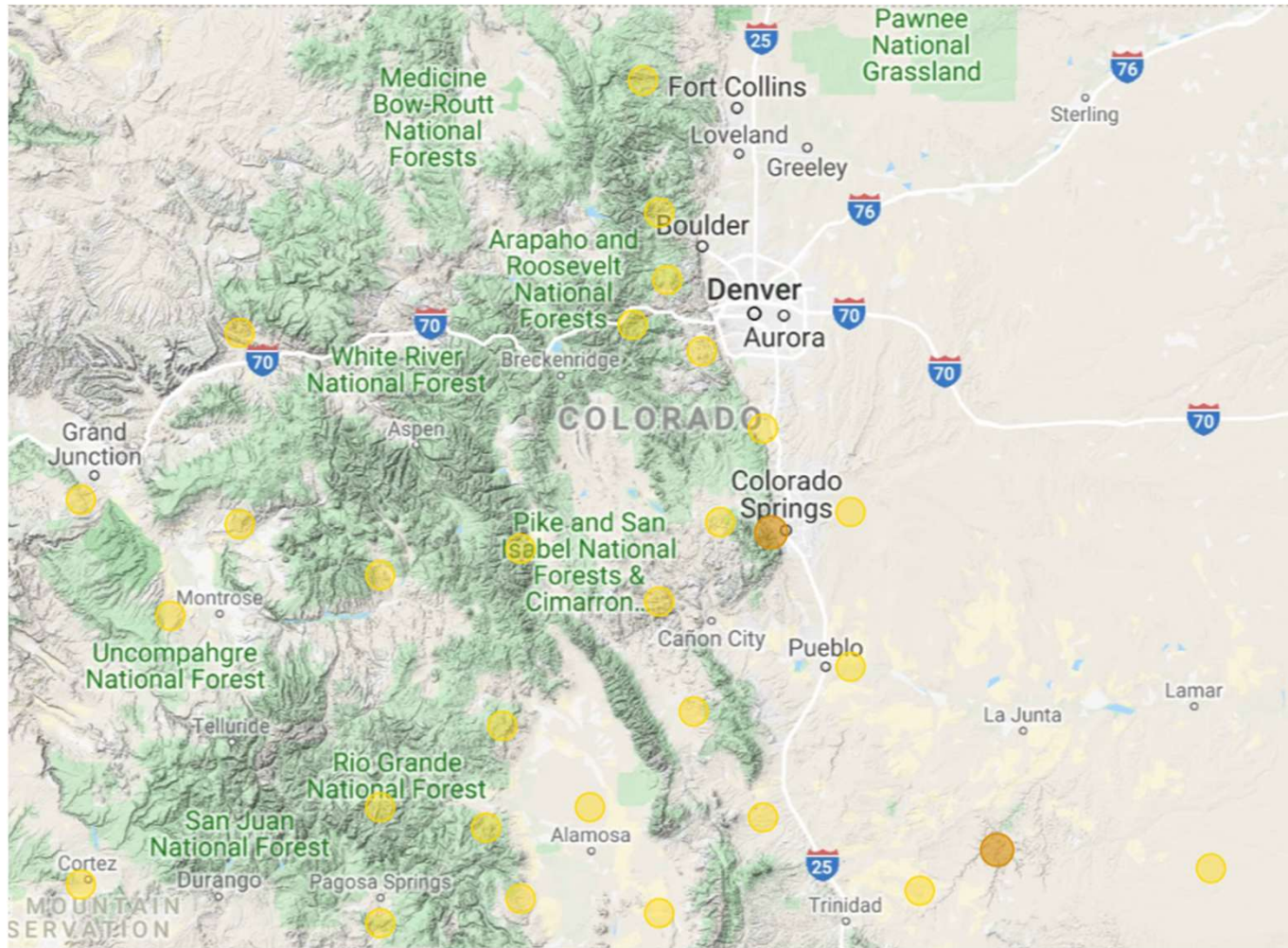


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Distribution Map (*Cyllopsis pertepida*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record

Ridings' Satyr (*Neominois ridingsii*)

- Above, grayish tan with dirty white **oblong spots forming a submarginal band with two or more black spots on the forewing**. Similar color and patterning on wings below.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1.5 to 2 1/4 inches.
- Habitat: Dry short-grass prairies, grasslands with bare soil.
- Flight times: June to July; one brood. Third- and fourth-stage caterpillars hibernate.
- Larval Foodplant: Blue grama grass.
- Earthen color and patterning make species hard to see until it is disturbed and flies. Adults prefer nectar of yellow composites

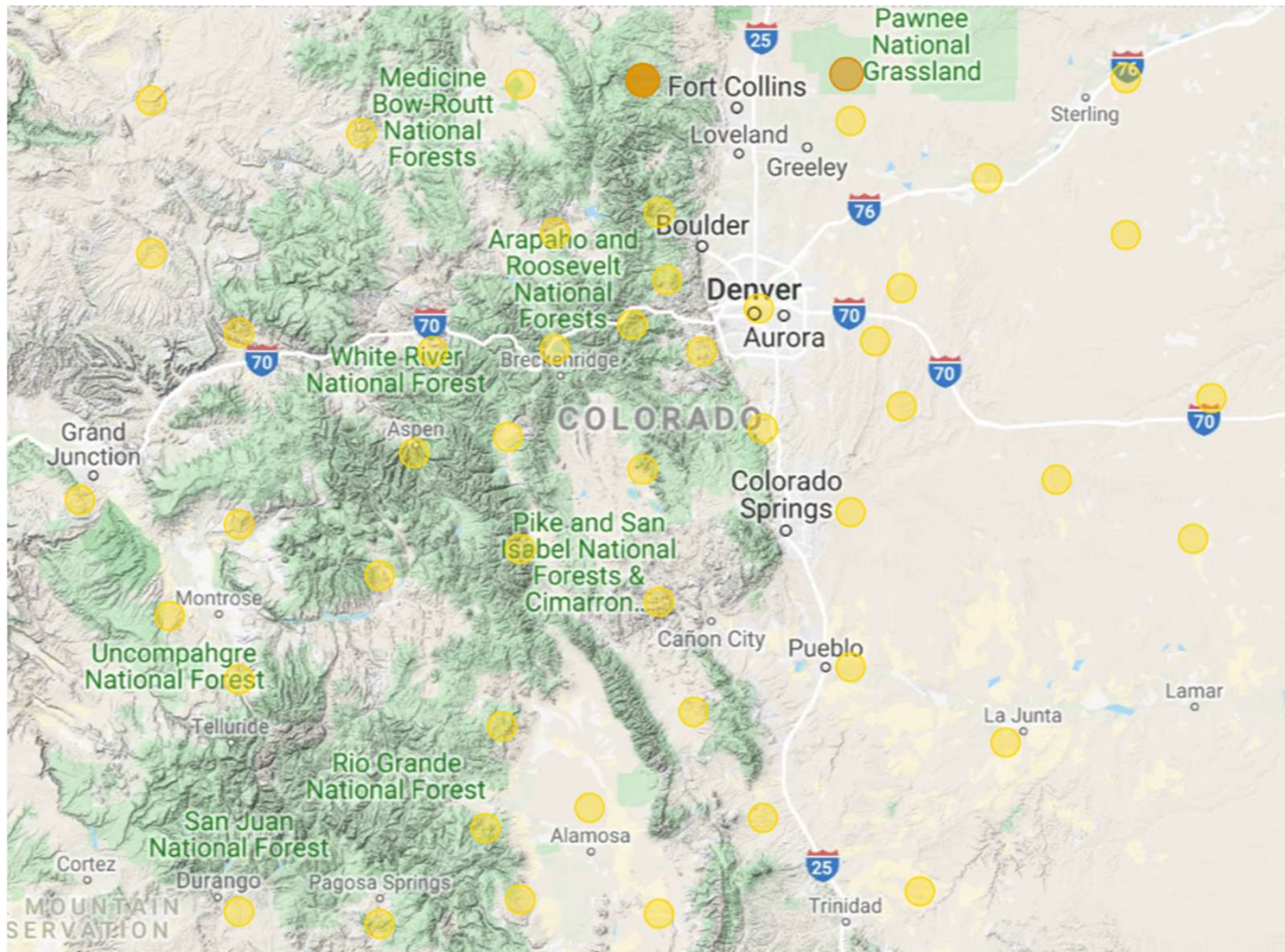


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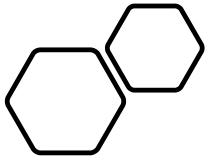
Ridings' Satyr



Distribution Map (*Neominois ridingsii*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record

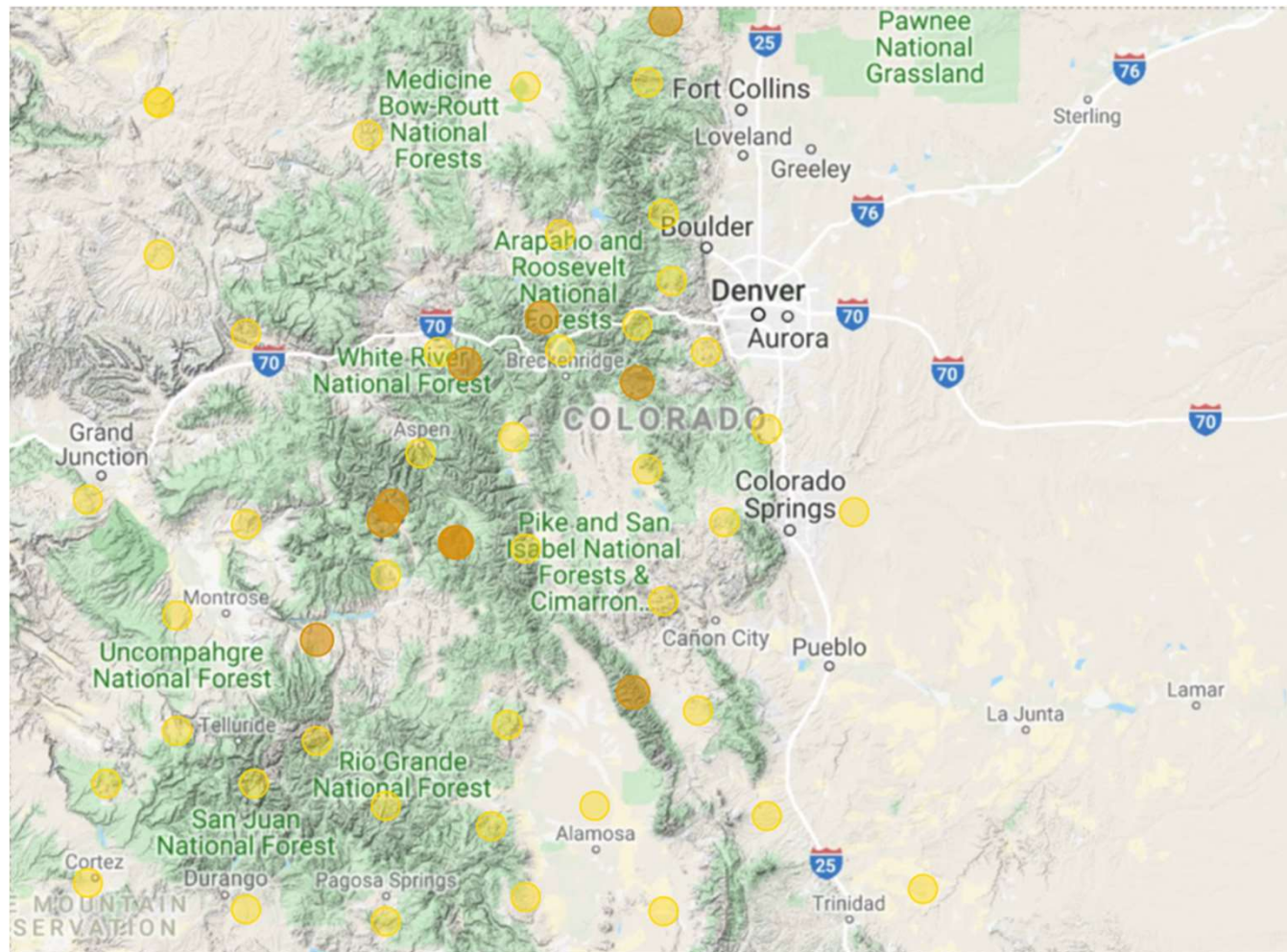


Common Alpine (*Erebia epipsodea*)

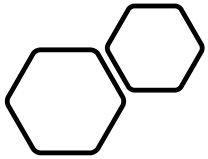
- Mostly dark brown above with orange submarginal patches with white-centered black eyespots. The pattern is repeated below but orange patches not as obvious. Below hindwing is gray-brown with submarginal black eyespots. **Eyespots on underside of hindwing distinguish this butterfly from similar species.**
- Wingspan: Medium; 1.5 to 2 inches.
- Habitat: Moist open grassy fields, meadows, high prairies, open forests in the montane and sub-alpine.
- Flight Times: Mid-June to early August; one brood.
- Larval Foodplant: Grasses
- Wide ranging habitat preferences-- our most frequently encountered alpine in the west. Males patrol all day to watch for females. Eggs are laid on living and dead grasses. Third- and fourth-stage caterpillars hibernate.



Distribution Map (*Erebia epipsodea*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record

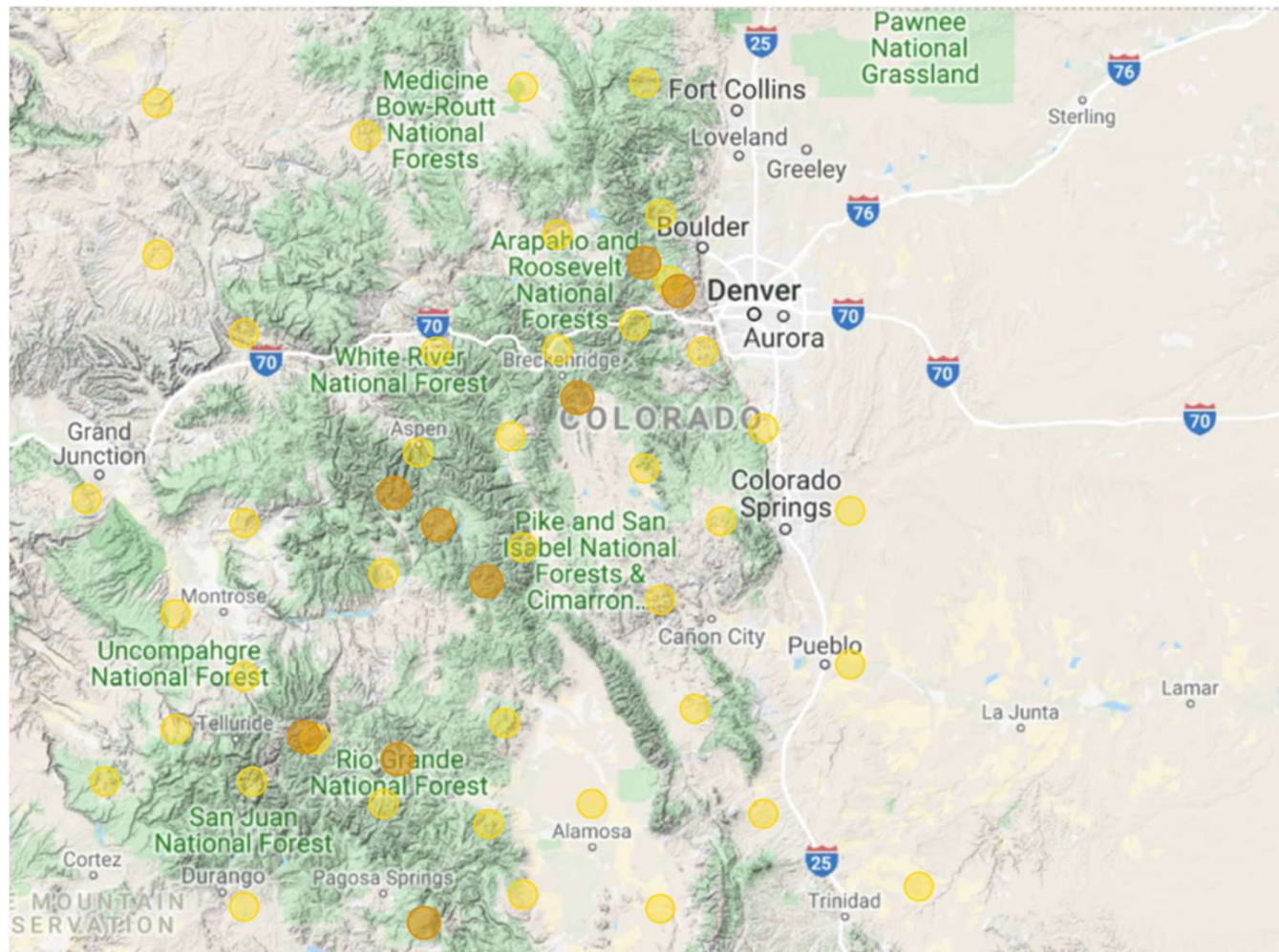


Chryxus Arctic (*Oeneis chryxus*)

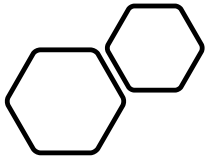
- A well camouflaged butterfly showing **irregular and marbled bands of brown and gray beneath on the hindwing and also can show submarginal eyespots**. The forewings beneath have some orange with a black median line that show a **'bird beak'** pointing toward the outer edge and also can have **1-4 small black eyespots**. Above, a uniform pale orange-brown color with eyespots conspicuous on the forewings.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 3/4 to 2 1/8 inches.
- Habitat: Meadows, open pine forests, grassy and woodland areas; foothills, montane.
- Flight Times: May to early August.
- Larval Foodplant: Sedges and grasses.
- Flight style is distinctive and helpful in identifying butterflies as is the slow and high flight of this species.



Distribution Map (*Oeneis chryxus*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record

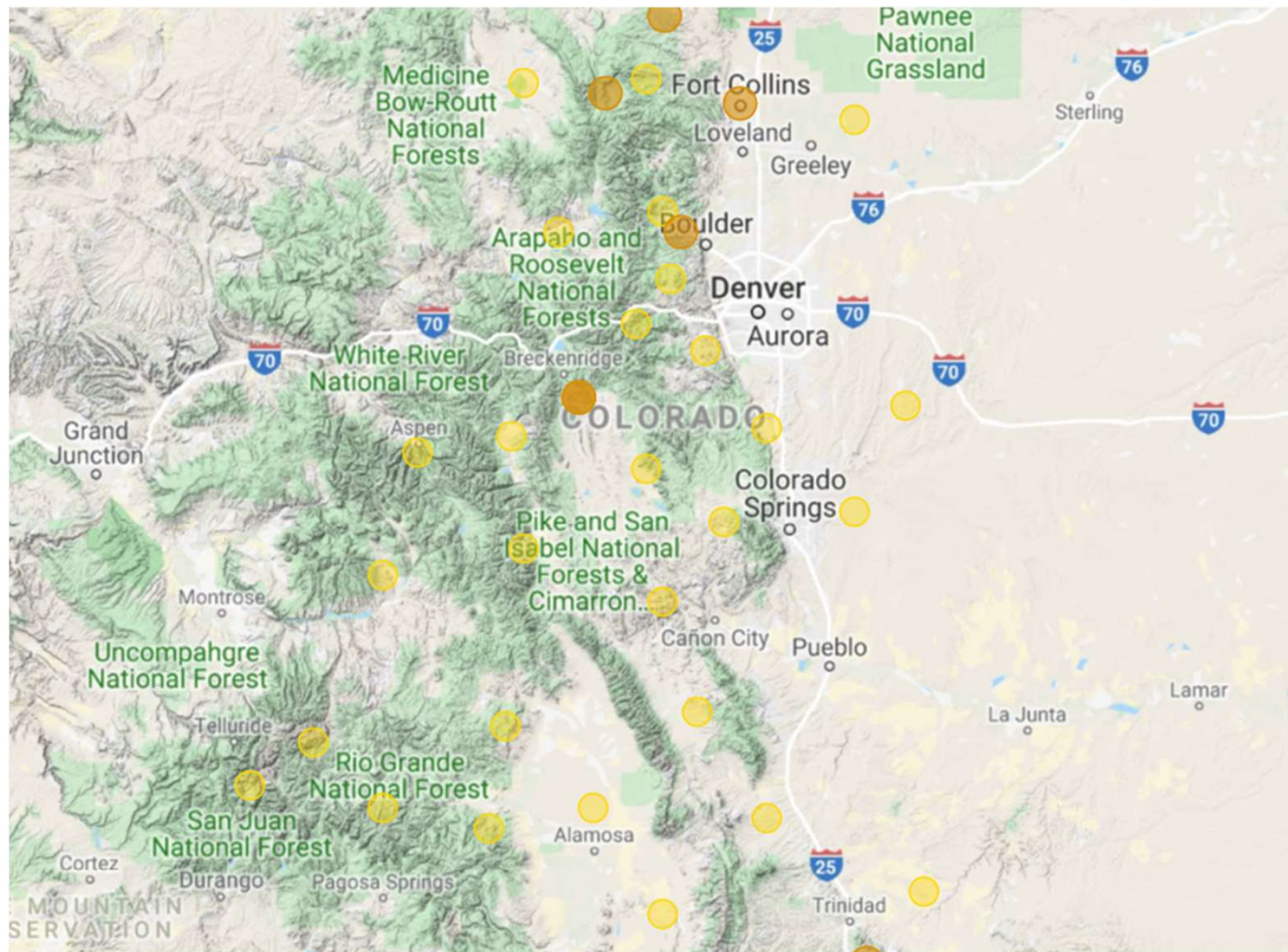


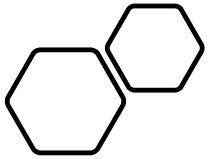
Uhler's Arctic (*Oeneis uhleri*)

- Pale brown to rich orange-brown above with **dark veins and several submarginal eyespots on both wings**. Below, brown and light buff striations and **one to many small submarginal spots on both wings**, which are sometimes reduced or absent. Resembles Chryxus Arctic but **does not have post median line or 'bird beak' on underside of forewing**.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1.5 to 2 inches.
- Habitat: Pine forest openings, dry and grassy meadows, grassy subalpine slopes and tundra.
- Flight Times: May to July; one brood.
- Larval Foodplant: Grasses and sedges.
- Uhler's tends to flutter in a hovering fashion over some fixed point on a grassy slope, while the Chryxus flits from spot to spot, seldom flying for long at any time



Distribution Map (*Oeneis uhleri*)



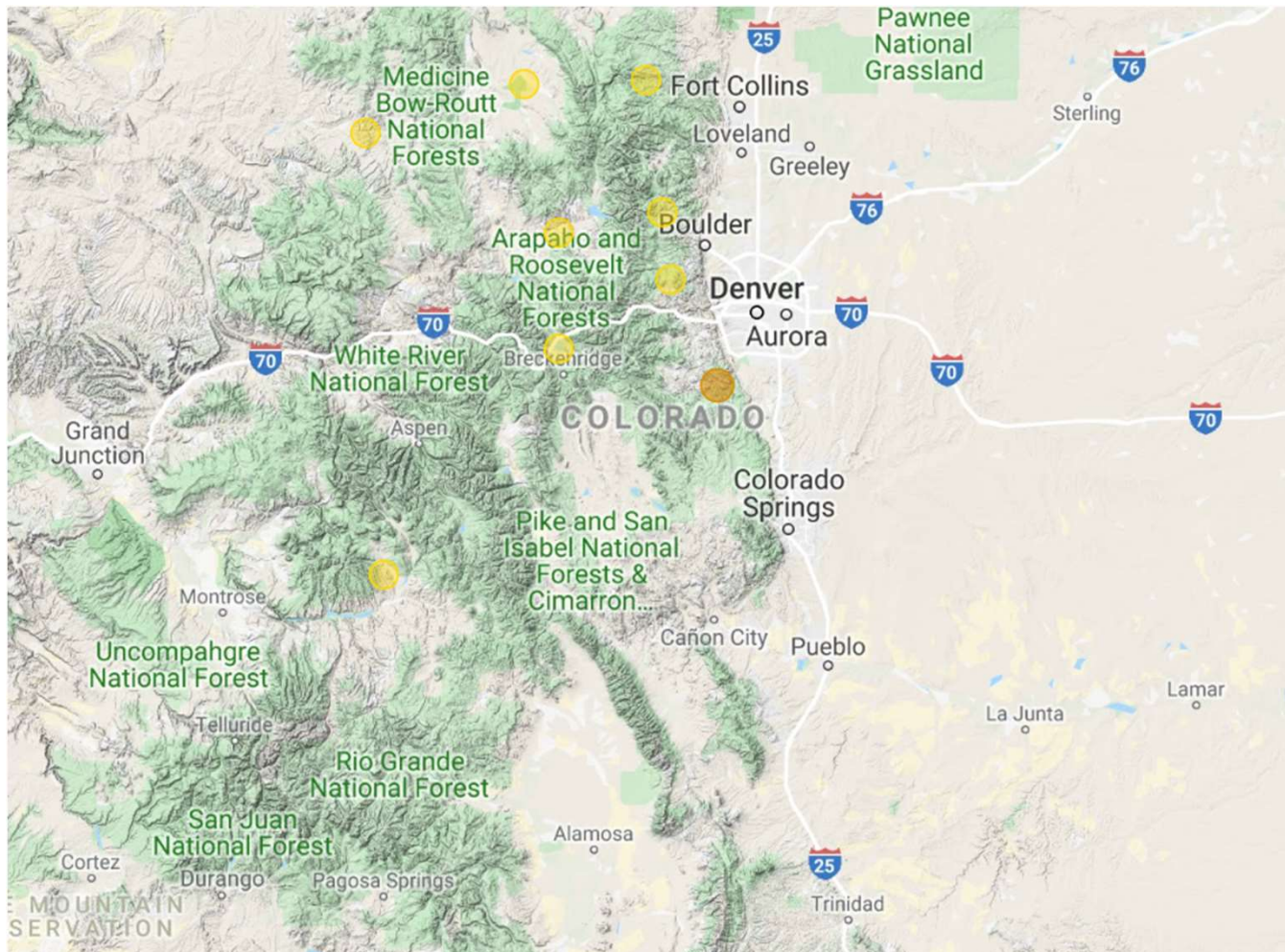


Jutta Arctic (*Oeneis jutta*)

- A medium size gray-brown species. **Above, forewing with pale orange submarginal band containing 1 to 4 black spots; hindwing with submarginal orange band containing 1 or 2 black spots.** Below, hindwing uniformly mottled gray-brown; forewing has 1 to 3 submarginal eye spots on a pale orange band.
- Wingspan: Medium; 1 7/8 to 2 5/16 inches.
- Habitat: Spruce and tamarack bogs, wet tundra, and lodgepole pine forests.
- Flight Times: mid-July to early August; one brood, biennial in some areas.
- Larval Foodplant: Sedges.
- Reported sightings of this species along the Colorado Front Range are quite rare



Distribution Map (*Oeneis jutta*)



- Detailed record
- Historical record

Similar Satyrs and Wood-nymphs



Uhler's Arctic



Chryx Arctic



Canyonland Satyr



Riding's Satyr



Jutta Arctic



Common Alpine