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## Why did fireflies disappear

Summer evenings are always made more magical by the alluring dance of fireflies. Sadly, that magic may soon exist only in memory. These insects are finding it harder and harder to survive as their habitats are destroyed by pesticides and deforestation. Along with moths and other flying insects, fireflies are also being driven toward extinction by ever-increasing light pollution that so often accompanies urban growth. With more than 2,000 species of fireflies around the world, researchers began their study where the data was most prevalent. The European glowworm and another species from Malaysia have both been extensively studied and documented, The Guardian reports, and declines in their populations may correlate with a likewise disappearance of North American fireflies. Source: YouTube/Tufts UniversityFireflies around the world are dwindling. "If people want fireflies around in the future we need to look at this seriously," said Tufts University biology professor Sara Lewis. "Fireflies are incredibly attractive insects, perhaps the most beloved of all insects, because they are so conspicuous, so magical. They spark wonder in people. When you are in your back yard or park you notice them and are amazed. They are one of the few things that universally give people a feeling of falling in love in nature." Lewis is leading a team of biologists working with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to survey firefly species of North America in hopes of learning more about the issues currently threatening their survival. Among those are the dwindling Bethany Beach firefly, which primarily make sits home along the Atlantic coast of Delaware. "Unfortunately people also like to live on the coast and there's been tremendous residential development there," she said. Source: YouTube/Tufts UniversityThere are more than 2,000 species of fireflies worldwide. Article continues below Our Featured Programs See how we're making a difference for People, Pets, and the Planet and how you can get involved! A group of scientists that looked at 150 separate studies concluded that growing sources of light pollution are driving fireflies and other insects away, too. "We strongly believe artificial light at night - in combination with habitat loss, chemical pollution, invasive species, and climate change - is driving insect declines," the scientists wrote. "We posit here that artificial light at night is another important - but often overlooked - bringer of the insect apocalypse." Source: YouTube/Tufts UniversityHabitat destruction is a major threat to the survival of fireflies. "Artificial light at night is human-caused lighting - ranging from streetlights to gas flares from oil extraction," said Brett Seymoure, a behavioral ecologist at Washington University in St Louis. "It can affect insects in pretty much every imaginable part of their lives." According to inhabitat, light from city streets and major metropolitan areas can be brighter than a full moon in some areas. Source: YouTube/Tufts UniversityLight pollution is the most easily controlled, of all the pollution sources facing fireflies. "Artificial lights can interfere with firefly courtship," the green design and lifestyle site reports. "Male fireflies flash particular bioluminescent patterns to attract females, who must flash responses in return. Unfortunately, artificial lights can mimic and thus confuse the signals. Or, worse yet, light pollution can be too bright for the fireflies to emit and properly recognize their ritual signals for mating to be initiated or completed." In contrast to habitat destruction and pesticide use, light pollution is relatively easy to neutralize. Just turn the lights off. Help preserve vital habitat at The Rainforest Site for free! - 2018 film The Fireflies Are GoneFilm posterFrenchLa disparition des lucioles Directed bySébastien PiloteWritten bySébastien PiloteProduced byMarc DaigleBernadette PayerStarringPierre-Luc BrillantCinematographyMichel La VeauEdited byStéphane LafleurMusic byPhilippe BraultProductioncompany ACPAVDistributed byLes Films SévilleRelease date 30 June 2018 (2018-06-30) (Karlovy Vary IFF) Running time96 minutesCountryCanadaLanguageFrench The Fireflies Are Gone (French: La disparition des lucioles) is a 2018 Canadian drama film directed by Sébastien Pilote.[1] It was screened in the Contemporary World Cinema section at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival,[2] where it won the award for Best Canadian Film.[3] The film centres on Léo (Karelle Tremblay), a restless teenager in her final year of high school who strikes up a friendship with Steve (Pierre-Luc Brillant), an older man.[4] In December 2018, the Toronto International Film Festival named the film to its annual year-end Canada's Top Ten list.[5] The film received two Canadian Screen Award nominations at the 7th Canadian Screen Awards in 2019, for Best Overall Sound (Gilles Corbeil and Stéphane Bergeron) and Best Original Score (Philippe Brault). Cast Pierre-Luc Brillant Marie-France Marcotte François Papineau Luc Picard Karelle Tremblay References ^ "The Fireflies Are Gone". The Film Stage. Retrieved 1 August 2018. ^ "TIFF Reveals Full Canadian Lineup, Including 19 New Films and Special Premiere Event of Rob Stewart's Final 'Sharkwater' Doc". IndieWire. Retrieved 1 August 2018. ^ "TIFF 2018 Awards: 'Green Book' Wins the People's Choice Award, Upsetting 'A Star Is Born'". IndieWire. 16 September 2018. ^ "TIFF Review: 'The Fireflies Are Gone' Is a Nuanced Coming-of-Age Tale In Small-Town Quebec". Exclaim!. 11 September 2018. ^ "TIFF's Canada's Top Ten list skews a lot younger this year". Now, 5 December 2018. External links The Fireflies Are Gone at IMDb This article related to a Canadian film of the 2010s is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.vte This 2010s drama film-related article is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.vte Retrieved from "" For years, naturalists and conservationists have noted, anecdotally, that fireflies seem to be in decline, but little was known about their conservation status, until now.An assessment of the extinction risk for firefly species in Canada and the U.S. reveals that 11% are threatened with extinction, 2% are near threatened, 33% are categorized as least concern, and more than half are data deficient, according to IUCN Red List criteria.Fireflies need abundant food sources (like snails and slugs), plenty of leaf litter and underground burrows, clean water, diverse native vegetation, and dark nights. Protecting and restoring high-quality habitat is critical for the conservation of fireflies and other insects, which are seeing global declines.The article includes a list of things individuals can do to help fireflies including mowing less or replacing lawns with diverse natives, leaving leaf litter, and eliminating pesticides and outside lights. Iconic, romanticized, and celebrated, fireflies illuminate the evenings and twilight memories of people around the globe. For years, naturalists and conservationists have noted, anecdotally, that fireflies seem to be in decline, but little was known about their conservation status, until now. Endangered mysterious lantern fireflies (Photuris mysticalampas) flashing in an Atlantic white cedar forest in Delaware. Photo by Radim Schreiber, fireflyexperience.org. Researchers from the Xerces Society, the ABQ BioPark, and the IUCN Firefly Specialist Group have just completed the first assessment of the extinction risk for firefly species in North America, covering 77% of known species in the U.S. and Canada. Of the 128 species evaluated, 14 species (11%) are threatened with extinction, 2% are near threatened and 33% were categorized as being of least concern, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species criteria. More than half of the species are listed as data deficient, meaning there not enough information to assess whether they're at risk. The approximate number of firefly species reported by state, province, or territory according to unpublished data by Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation 2019. "These assessments — the first for fireflies — lay the groundwork for firefly conservation in the U.S. and Canada," Candace Fallon, a senior conservation biologist at the Xerces Society and IUCN Red List co-assessor, said in a statement. "With this information, we can now be more strategic about setting conservation priorities and addressing data gaps, working to protect the full diversity of fireflies and their habitats, from the common and widespread big dipper firefly to the threatened and little-known southwest spring firefly." The most threatened species of firefly, the Bethany beach firefly (Photuris bethaniensis) is found only along a 32-kilometer (20-mile) stretch of coast in the U.S. state of Delaware, where it lives in freshwater-fed depressions among the sand dunes. Although the species is listed as endangered at the state level, plans for a nearby housing development threaten the largest known population of the firefly, and an assessment to list the species under the federal Endangered Species Act is pending. The big dipper firefly (Photinus pyralis), common in the southeastern US, is a species of least concern. The enzyme that causes fireflies to glow has many applications in medical research. Image by Terry Priest via Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0). Fireflies are not flies, but beetles in the family Lampyridae, and they are found on every continent except Antarctica. The firefly family includes the popular blinking types, glowworms and daytime dark fireflies, which communicate without blinking. In the U.S. and Canada, 114 species are flashing fireflies, 24 are glowworms, and 30 are daytime dark flies. The green, yellow or red lights emitted by fireflies are produced through an internal chemical reaction between oxygen, a luciferin molecule, and an enzyme called luciferase. The glowing property of luciferase has been used in research to detect blood clots, understand Parkinson's disease, visualize HIV, and develop cancer treatments. Scientists believe fireflies and their larvae glow to warn predators that they are toxic. Fireflies contain the toxic compounds called lucibufagins, which they use as a defense against predation by birds and amphibians. (Though it doesn't stop spiders from eating them.) Some fireflies have adopted this glow for use in courtship. In the mountains of the U.S. states of Tennessee and North Carolina, as well as in Japan, tourists flock to witness dazzling displays of fireflies synchronizing their mating flashes. Fireflies illuminate the forest. Image by Roberto Marchegiani via Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0). Fireflies are threatened by habitat destruction and degradation, pesticides, light pollution, poor water quality, invasive species, overcollection, and climate change. Adults typically live less than a month, but their larvae live up to two years, so it's primarily threats to larvae that threaten the beetles. Most firefly larvae require wet and damp habitats such as streams, wetlands and damp fields to survive. These wet places are jeopardized by commercial and residential development, road building, water pumping, and water pollution from construction and agriculture. The increasing number and brightness of artificial lights in North America now mean that more than 30% of people cannot see the Milky Way from where they live. This rise of artificial sky glow affects many species of animals, including fireflies, of which three-quarters are nocturnal and rely on their flashing to attract mates and deter predators. Some species require complete darkness for mating to occur and are particularly sensitive to light pollution. Pesticides used in agriculture and for mosquito control are also harming populations, as is climate change, which has increased the intensity and frequency of droughts and wildfires in firefly habitat. Invasive species such as the red imported fire ant have been known to kill firefly larvae and contribute to firefly declines in the southeastern U.S. Adult (left) and juvenile (right) Florida intertidal fireflies have been assessed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. This species lives only in the intertidal zone of salt marshes, mudflats, and mangroves in coastal Florida and the Bahamas. Images by Drew Fulton (left) and Ted C. MacRae (right) provided by Xerces Society. "The good news is that everyone can play a role in bolstering firefly populations," said Anna Walker, New Mexico BioPark Society species survival officer at the ABQ BioPark and Red List co-assessor. "We can turn off lights at night to reduce our individual contributions to light pollution, we can participate in community science projects like Firefly Watch that gather data on firefly distribution and abundance, and we can support organizations that protect and restore the habitats that fireflies need." Fireflies need abundant food sources, plenty of leaf litter and underground burrows, clean water, diverse native vegetation, and dark nights. Protecting and restoring high-quality habitat is critical for the conservation of fireflies and other insects, which are seeing global declines. On average, the decline in global insect abundance is thought to be around 1-2% per year or 10-20% per decade. "By identifying these threatened fireflies and understanding what they need to thrive," said Sara Lewis, co-chair of the IUCN Firefly Specialist Group and Red List reviewer, "we're working to ensure these wondrous insects will be lighting up night skies for future generations to enjoy." Banner image of fireflies by Fred Huang via Flickr (CC BY-NC 2.0). Liz Kimbrough is a staff writer for Mongabay. Find her on Twitter @lizkimbrough\_ FEEDBACK: Use this form to send a message to the author of this post. If you want to post a public comment, you can do that at the bottom of the page. Article published by Iizkimbrough Animals, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Conservation, Deforestation, Endangered Species, Environment, Forests, Green, Insects, Pesticides PRINT

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