

TABLE 1.—POTENTIAL NONNATIVE INSECT PREDATORS AND PARASITES OF BLACKBURN'S SPHINX MOTH

Order/family	Genus/species	Major island(s) on which the species has been reported	Major island(s) on which the species has not been reported
Diptera/Tachinidae .....	<i>Chaetogaedia monticola</i> (fly) .....	Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu.	Kahoolawe.
Diptera/Tachinidae .....	<i>Lespesia archippivora</i> (fly) .....	Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu	Kahoolawe, Lanai.
Hymenoptera/Formicidae .....	<i>Anoplolepis longipes</i> (long-legged ant).	Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Oahu .....	Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai.
Hymenoptera/Formicidae .....	<i>Linepithema humilis</i> (Argentine ant)	Hawaii, Kahoolawe, Kauai, Lanai, Maui.	Molokai, Oahu.
Hymenoptera/Formicidae .....	<i>Ochetellus glaber</i> (ant) .....	Hawaii, Kahoolawe, Kauai, Maui, Oahu.	Lanai, Molokai.
Hymenoptera/Formicidae .....	<i>Pheidole megacephala</i> (big-headed ant).	Hawaii, Kahoolawe, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu.	none.
Hymenoptera/Formicidae .....	<i>Solenopsis geminita</i> (fire ant) .....	Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu.	Kahoolawe.
Hymenoptera/Formicidae .....	<i>Solenopsis papuana</i> (fire ant) .....	Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu.	Kahoolawe.
Hymenoptera/Vespidae .....	<i>Vespula pennsylvanica</i> (yellow jacket wasp).	Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Oahu .....	Kahoolawe, Molokai.
Hymenoptera/Ichneumonidae	<i>Hyposoter exiguae</i> (wasp) .....	Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu	Kahoolawe, Lanai.
Hymenoptera/ Trichogrammatidae.	<i>Trichogramma chilonis</i> (wasp) .....	Kauai, Oahu .....	Hawaii, Maui, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai.
Hymenoptera/ Trichogrammatidae.	<i>Trichogramma minutum</i> (wasp) .....	Hawaii, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu .....	Kauai, Kahoolawe, Maui.

Furthermore, the arthropod community may differ from one area to another, even on the same island, based upon elevation, temperature, prevailing wind pattern, precipitation, or other factors (Nishida 1997). Conserving and restoring Blackburn's sphinx moth populations in multiple locations should decrease the likelihood that the effect of any single alien parasite or predator, or the combined pressure of such species, could result in the diminished vigor or extinction of the moth.

Because of the threats discussed above, we do not believe the existing habitats containing Blackburn's sphinx moth populations are sufficient to ensure the long-term survival of the species. A diverse set of habitats and climates within its former range is necessary to remove the long-term risk of rangewide extinction of the species. Threats to the moth identified in the final listing rule include vandalism and collection, predation/parasitism by alien arthropods, and habitat alteration and loss from nonnative plant and ungulate invasion (65 FR 4770; February 1, 2000). Considering the rarity of the moth, small population size is also believed to be a factor that threatens the long-term survival of the species, since random population fluctuations and catastrophic events are more likely to result in the extirpation of local populations. Wildfire and feral ungulate pressure on the moth's habitat, along with direct pressure of alien predators and parasites, are important factors currently reducing the moth's range and

abundance and threatening the species' continued existence (Funasaki *et al.* 1988).

#### Previous Federal Action

A summary of previous Federal actions on this species up to the time we proposed this critical habitat designation is found in the **Federal Register** notice proposing designation of this critical habitat (67 FR beginning page 40638).

On June 13, 2002, we published a proposed rule for designation of critical habitat for Blackburn's sphinx moth on approximately 40,240 ha (99,433 ac) of land on the islands of Hawaii, Kahoolawe, Maui, and Molokai (67 FR 40633). The publication of the proposed rule opened a 60-day public comment period, which closed on August 12, 2002.

Subsequently, we determined that an additional extension of time was needed to complete this designation process. On August 21, 2002, the District Court in Hawaii approved another joint stipulation extending the date for the final rule designating critical habitat for Blackburn's sphinx moth to May 30, 2003.

On August 26, 2002, we published a notice (67 FR 54763) announcing the reopening of the comment period until December 30, 2002, and notice of a public hearing on the proposed rule to be held on the island of Maui. On September 12, 2002, we held a public hearing at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center Meeting Room, Kahului.

On October 10, 2002, we published a notice of a public hearing on the

proposed rule to be held on the island of Hawaii (67 FR 63064). On October 29, 2002, we held a public hearing in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

On November 15, 2002, we published a notice of the availability of, and invitation for, comments on the draft economic analysis (DEA) for the proposed rule (67 FR 69179). The second public comment period closed on December 30, 2002.

#### Summary of Comments and Recommendations

##### Peer Review

In accordance with our policy published on July 1, 1994 (59 FR 34270), we solicited, during a prepublication peer review process, independent opinions from 15 knowledgeable individuals with expertise in one or several fields, including familiarity with the species, the geographic region that the species occurs in, and the principles of conservation biology. We received comments from five reviewers. After publication of the proposed rule, we solicited independent opinions from 27 knowledgeable individuals with similar expertise. We received 8 written responses from those 27 individuals. All eight reviewers generally supported our methodology and conclusion, and supported the proposed critical habitat designation, although they recognized the limitations of scientific knowledge of life history and population characteristics of the Blackburn's sphinx moth. All of the reviewers supported including currently unoccupied habitat