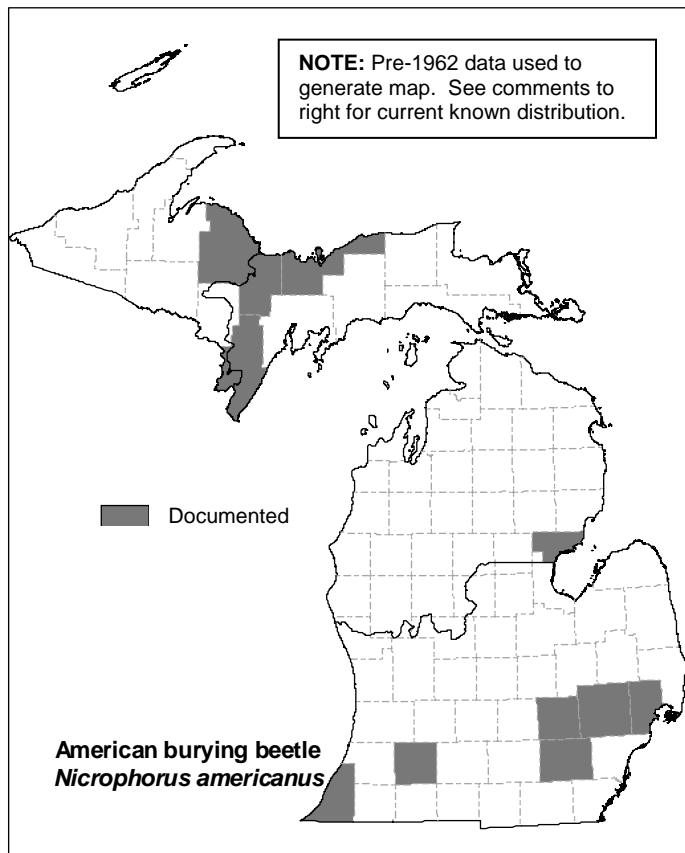


# INSECTS



## American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*)

**DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE:** State and federally listed as endangered. This species experienced a rapid decline throughout most of its range over the last century. It is probably extirpated from Michigan and from most of its Eastern U.S. range. It is currently known from only a few populations in the central great plains states.

**ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES:** prairie; pasture; lowland shrub; upland shrub; lowland hardwood; mesic hardwood; dry hardwood; unknown

**ASSOCIATED THREATS:** conversion to agriculture lands; disease, pathogens, & parasites; industrial/residential/recreational development; lack of scientific knowledge; other biological interactions (increased vertebrate competition (raccoons, rats, crow, coyotes, cats, fox, etc.); possible congener competition); pesticides & herbicides; removal of wildlife; urban, municipal, and industrial pollution

**COMMENTS:** Need surveys to determine presence in the State and, if present, assess abundance and distribution. The cause of the massive range contraction for this species is largely unknown. Threats to this species are currently based upon informed speculation. The most common explanations for declines include the extinction of the passenger pigeon, increased competition from vertebrates (e.g. raccoons, rats, coyotes, crows, cats, fox), disease, and large-scale artificial lighting (Sikes and Raitzel 2002).