

CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT AND LISTING PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT FORM

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pseudanophthalmus holsingeri*

COMMON NAME: Holsinger=s Cave beetle

LEAD REGION: Region 5

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF: 02/24/03

STATUS/ACTION (Check all that apply):

New candidate

Continuing candidate

Non-petitioned

Petitioned - Date petition received: ____

90-day positive - FR date: ____

12-month warranted but precluded - FR date: ____

Is the petition requesting a reclassification of a listed species?

Listing priority change

Former LP: ____

New LP: ____

Latest date species first became a Candidate: _____

Candidate removal: Former LP: ____ (Check only one reason)

A - Taxon more abundant or widespread than previously believed or not subject to a degree of threats sufficient to warrant issuance of a proposed listing or continuance of candidate status.

F - Range is no longer a U.S. territory.

M - Taxon mistakenly included in past notice of review.

N - Taxon may not meet the Act=s definition of Aspecies.@

X - Taxon believed to be extinct.

ANIMAL/PLANT GROUP AND FAMILY: Insect, Carabidae

HISTORICAL STATES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: Virginia

CURRENT STATES/COUNTIES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE:
Virginia

LEAD REGION CONTACT: Diane Lynch, 413-253-8628

LEAD FIELD OFFICE CONTACT: Southwest Virginia Field Office, Shane Hanlon, 276-623-1233 x 25

BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION: Describe habitat, historic vs. current range, historic vs. current population estimates (# populations, #individuals/population), etc.:

P. holsingeri is a small insect, up to 4 millimeters long, known from only one cave in

southwestern Virginia. These copper colored beetles live on damp\wet mud banks along the shallow cave stream, and feed on rotting wood, leaves, and other organic matter that naturally washes into the cave.

THREATS (Describe threats in terms of the five factors in section 4 of the ESA providing specific, substantive information. If this is a removal of a species from candidate status or a change in listing priority, explain reasons for change):

A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range.

Two previous threats have been eliminated through conservation activities: 1) a highway widening project proposed to be constructed near the only cave occupied by this beetle, such that runoff would enter the sink at the cave entrance; and 2) a gas station located over the cave with a leaking underground fuel tank. The threat of raw sewage observed entering the cave from a house or houses located over the cave is being worked on. Less significant threats to the species include potential non-point source pollution of the cave stream by animal manure, stormwater runoff and petroleum spills from a commercial petroleum storage facility.

B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes.

None known.

C. Disease or predation.

None known.

D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.

Existing laws to protect caves in Virginia and groundwater and surface water quality are not adequate to protect the species.

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

None known.

FOR RECYCLED PETITIONS: NA

- a. Is listing still warranted? ___
- b. To date, has publication of a proposal to list been precluded by other higher priority listing actions? ___
- c. Is a proposal to list the species as threatened or endangered in preparation? ___
- d. If the answer to c. above is no, provide an explanation of why the action is still precluded.

LAND OWNERSHIP (Estimate proportion Federal/state/local government/private, identify non-private owners): 100% privately owned. However, a linear park is planned near the species habitat and may aid in its protection.

PRELISTING (Describe status of conservation agreements or other conservation activities):

Prelisting activities have included working with VA Dept. of Transportation to modify a highway project to avoid impacting the beetle, removal of a leaking gas tank located over the cave, and funding dye tracing studies to identify the source of the sewage pollution.

REFERENCES (Identify primary sources of information (e.g., status reports, petitions, journal publications, unpublished data from species experts) using formal citation format):

Holsinger, John. Unpublished data (species expert).

Hubbard, D.A. and W.M. Balfour. 1993. An investigation of engineering and environmental concerns relating to proposed highway construction in Karst terrane. *Environmental Geology*, 22:326-329.

LISTING PRIORITY (* after number)

THREAT

Magnitude	Immediacy	Taxonomy	Priority
High	Imminent	Monotypic genus	1
		Species	2
		Subspecies/population	3
	Non-imminent	Monotypic genus	4
		Species	5 *
		Subspecies/population	6
Moderate to Low	Imminent	Monotypic genus	7
		Species	8
		Subspecies/population	9
	Non-imminent	Monotypic genus	10
		Species	11
		Subspecies/population	12

Rationale for listing priority number:

Magnitude:

Imminence:

APPROVAL/CONCURRENCE: Lead Regions must obtain written concurrence from all other Regions within the range of the species before recommending changes to the candidate list, including listing priority changes; the Regional Director must approve all such recommendations. The Director must concur on all additions of species to the candidate list, removal of candidates, and listing priority changes.

Approve: Mamie Parker _____ Date March 24, 2003
Regional Director,
Fish and Wildlife Service

Concur: _____ Date _____
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

Do not
concur: _____ Date _____
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

Director's Remarks:

Date of annual review: February 24, 2003

Conducted by: Shane Hanlon, USFWS, SVFO

Comments: