



INSECT SECTION

NORTHEASTERN BEACH TIGER BEETLE

ABOUT

The Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis*) is sand-colored with white to light tan wing covers on the insect's back, often marked with fine dark lines. Its head and chest are bronze-green. The beetle's length varies from half an inch to three fifths of an inch (13 – 15.5 mm). They grasp their prey with long, curved mandibles (jaw-like mouthpart) in an aggressive manner, and their larvae are also predatory and similarly equipped for feeding. They need high body heat to hunt effectively and eat lice, beach fleas, ants, flies, dead crabs and fish.

DID YOU KNOW?

Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetles have a two-year life cycle. The adult beetles emerge in late June, declining in early September. Perfect habitat for the adult beetle and its larvae is wide, undisturbed fine sand beaches. Mating and egg laying occur from late June through August. Female beetles deposit their eggs in the sand, higher up the beach in the dunes. This beetle is listed federally as threatened and endangered by Maryland and Massachusetts. Its historical range has increasingly shrunk due to the increase in recreational beach use. It can no longer be found in New York State.

For more detailed information visit: www.dec.state.ny.us

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What is the perfect habitat for the Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle?

- a. Remote pebble beaches
- b. Tropical beaches lined with palm trees
- c. Beaches that are popular with tourists
- d. Wide, undisturbed fine sand beaches

Answer is D.

