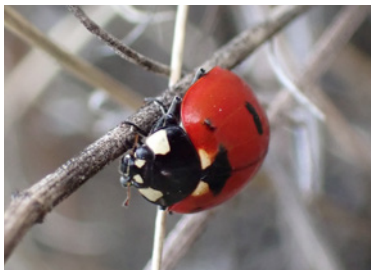


Coccinella transversoguttata



The Transverse Lady Beetle is a large (5-8 mm long) rounded lady beetle that is oval in shape. It is red to orange in colour with black markings: a band across the elytra (wing coverings) behind its head, and four elongated spots. It has two white spots on its black head, and two additional white spots immediately behind.



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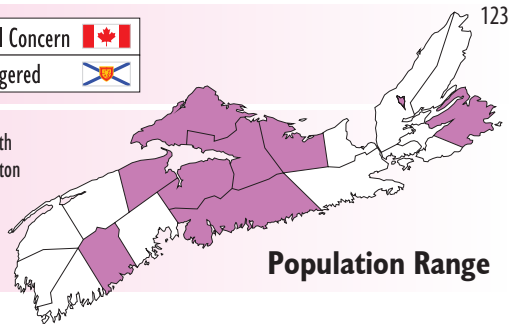
STATUS

Special Concern 

Endangered



Historically observed on both the mainland and Cape Breton Island. It has not been observed in the province since 1985.



Habitat

The Transverse Lady Beetle is a habitat generalist, occurring throughout Nova Scotia in coniferous and deciduous forests, grasslands, riverbanks, sand-dune edges, and suburban areas. It was once common in open habitats, forest edges, and in agricultural areas where its preferred prey, aphids, thrive.



MAIN OFFICE

Look for the Transverse Lady Beetle in vegetated areas rich in aphids.

Interesting Points

- It may be extirpated from Nova Scotia as it has not been seen in the province for over forty years, disappearing from much of its historical range in the eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada.
- Most species in this genus (*Coccinella*) are able to release alkaloids, a defensive substance, from their leg joints when threatened.
- Females can lay almost 270 eggs over a two-week period.



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Similar Species

Seven-spotted Lady Beetle (*Coccinella septempunctata*): Non-native to Nova Scotia. Seven markings as opposed to five, none elongated.



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Coccinella septempunctata

Three-banded Lady Beetle (*Coccinella trifasciata*): Most similar looking. Much smaller. All markings similar in length, often with pale outlines.



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Coccinella trifasciata

Asian Lady Beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*): Non-native to Nova Scotia. Similar in size (5-8 mm), distinctive black "M" behind head, can have up to 21 markings.



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Harmonia axyridis

Threats to Survival

- Introduced lady beetles (habitat competition, larval predation, introduction and transmission of pathogens).
- Increased agricultural pesticide use.
- Habitat loss due to succession of open areas to forest (farmland abandonment).

How You Can Help

Learn to recognize this species, and document and report any sightings. Participate in bioblitzes and visual surveys and report your results to the Lost Ladybug Project and iNaturalist. Property owners can plant native species in gardens and leave parts ungroomed. Avoid using chemical pesticides.



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Introduced Asian Lady Beetles threaten native species

Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: NS Department of Natural Resources: biodiversity@novascotia.ca

Sighting Reports: Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre: john.klymko@accdc.ca; 1-866-727-3447; www.inaturalist.org; www.lostladybug.org