

Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

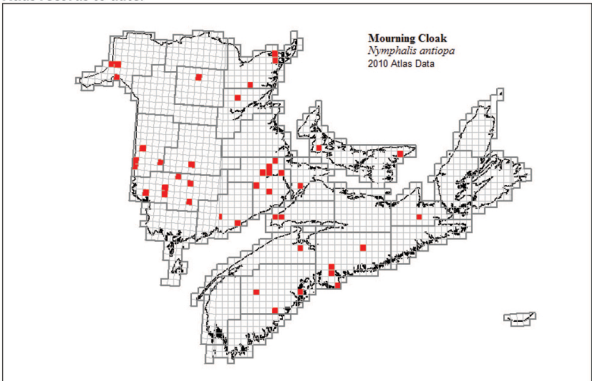


Photograph © Martin Turgeon

Description: Our only butterfly with pale borders on otherwise dark wings. Above the wings are dark maroon with strongly contrasting yellow border, below the wings are grayish-brown with strongly contrasting whitish-yellow border. Wingspan: 45 to 79 mm.

Maritime Distribution: Widespread throughout the Maritimes.

Atlas records to date:



Provincial Ranks: NB: S4. NS: S5. PEI: S3S4.

Flight Period: Mourning Cloaks overwinter as adults, and can be seen flying from March to October. There may be one or two generations per year.

Host Plant: A wide variety of deciduous trees including willows (*Salix* spp.), elms (*Ulmus* spp.), maples (*Acer* spp.), and birches (*Betula* spp.).

Notes: Mourning Cloak is most often seen in and around forested habitats, though it can be found just about anywhere. It can be common along wood roads in late summer. J. Klymko, the atlas director, once saw one in the middle of downtown Toronto!