

# Boreal Felt Lichen

*Erioderma pedicellatum*

**STATUS**

Endangered 

Endangered 

43



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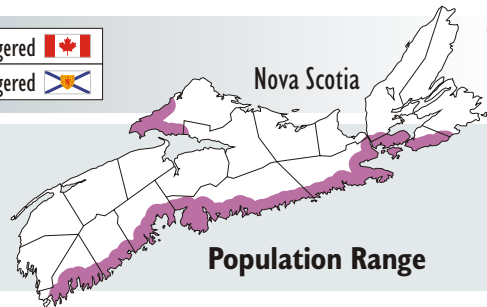
Lichens are amazing organisms that are part fungus and part algae or cyanobacteria.

Because they are small, some of the identifying features are best viewed with a hand lens.

## Species Description

Boreal felt lichen is a foliose (leaf-like) cyanolichen, with distinctive up-turned lobes (edges) that reveal white undersides. Its thallus (vegetative leafy part) is green when moist or dark grey to brown when dry. The upper surface has a matted or felt-like covering of fine whitish hairs, with apothecia (disk-shaped fruiting bodies) mainly on lobe margins. The under surface is covered in whitish hairs. It typically is 2-5 cm in diameter but has been observed up to 12 cm in diameter.

Known to occur in at least nine locations along the eastern and southern shores of Nova Scotia.



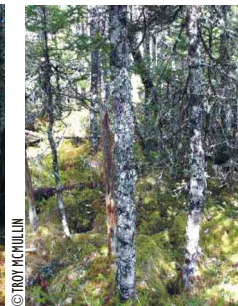
**Population Range**

## Habitat

Forested balsam fir stands within 25 km of the coast, at elevations up to 300 m above sea level. Found in cool, moist habitats, such as those near Sphagnum moss wetlands. It generally occurs on the north-facing side of mature and old growth tree trunks, which are located at the base of slopes with northern (or northeastern) exposures.



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Boreal Felt lichen is typically observed on fir trees in forested habitats with a natural, low, open canopy.

## Interesting Points

- Indicators of local air quality - they are found only in areas with low levels of air pollutants.
- Captures nitrogen from the air and recycles it back into the forest ecosystem - beneficial because nitrogen is often a limiting nutrient.
- In Sweden, this species occurred in only one area that was protected in an effort to conserve it. The adjacent land was clear-cut and the lichen disappeared, and is now extirpated from the country. This shows how entire ecosystems are needed to maintain biodiversity.

- They are the panda bear among the lichens!

## Similar Species

### Note:

Boreal Felt Lichen is almost always found with these two species, however, they are often found without it.

### Salted Shell Lichen

(*Coccocarpia palmicola*): dark blue-grey; lobes rounded (2-5 mm); apothecia rare.



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### Textured Lungwort

(*Lobaria scrobiculata*): pale grey-blue (dry) to rich blue-grey (wet); lobes 10-12 mm; no hairs.



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## Threats to Survival

- Air pollution and acid rain.
- Clearcuts and tree plantations.
- Land development.
- Climate change and severe weather events.
- Our lack of knowledge about where it is found.



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## How You Can Help

Learn how to recognize the species and report sightings. If you locate one, do not collect the specimen - but please take a photograph and record the location. Be an advocate of sustainable forestry practices, and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions at home and at work.



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## Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

**Contact:** Department of Environment and Labour (902) 424-2176

**Info:** [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [sightings@speciesatrisk.ca](mailto:sightings@speciesatrisk.ca)