

Boreal Felt Lichen

Erioderma pedicellatum

STATUS

Endangered 

Endangered 



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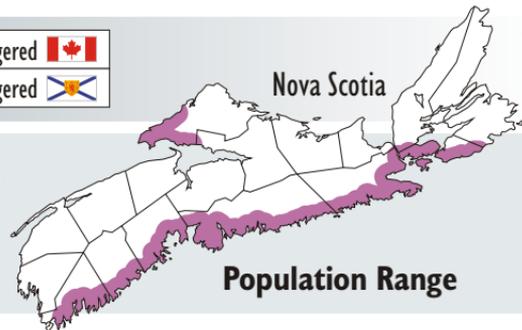
Lichens are amazing organisms that are part fungus and part algae or cyanobacteria.

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.



Textured Lungwort

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



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

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or sightings@speciesatrisk.ca

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