

Ghost Antler

Pseudevernia cladonia

STATUS

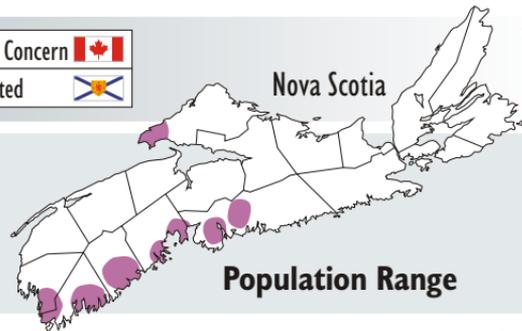
Special Concern 

Not Listed 

47

Nova Scotia

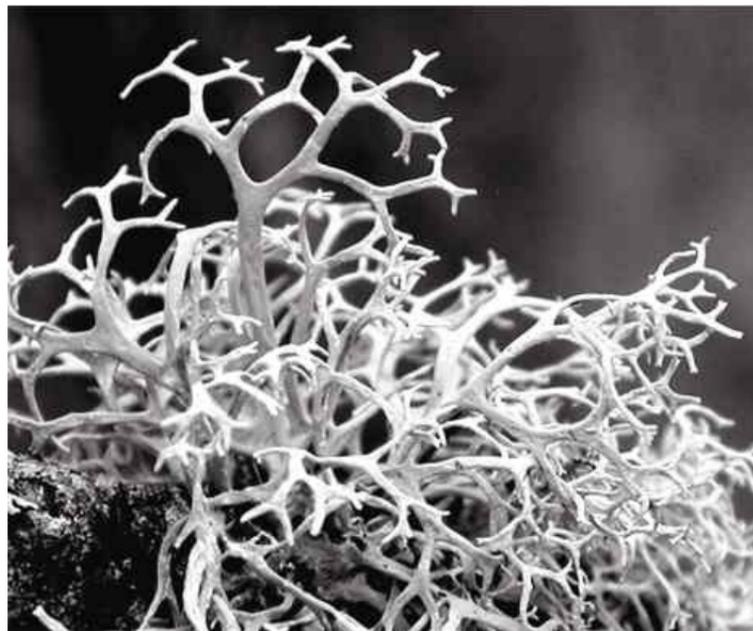
Presently found at eight sites throughout the province with an unknown population size.



Population Range

Habitat

Occurs mainly in coastal spruce-fir forests that are foggy and cool. Also observed inland in humid old-growth forests. Found mainly on twigs and branches and less commonly on tree trunks. In Canada it is mainly observed on balsam fir, red spruce, and black spruce.



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Species Description

Ghost Antler is a chalky white to pale grey macrolichen with many fine branches. Apothecia (disk-shaped fruiting bodies) are extremely rare and unknown in Nova Scotia populations. Soredia and isidia (vegetative propagules) are absent. Grows up to 12 cm in length and 4 cm in height.



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Ghost Antler is typically observed on fir or spruce tree branches in areas such as Cape Chignecto Provincial Park and Portuguese Cove.

Interesting Points

- Indicator of old growth forests.
- May be a valuable climate change indicator as it requires cool, humid habitats.
- The “ghost” part of its name refers to its pale, whitish colour.



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Similar Species

Ramalina, Usnea and Evernia:

These lichen species are similar looking but all have a distinct greenish colour.



Ramalina



Usnea



Evernia

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Caribou Lichen:

Similar in appearance but occurs only on the forest floor; has rounded branches in cross-section (flattened in Ghost Antler).



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To learn more, check out “Lichens of the Maritimes” by Frances Anderson and Troy McMullin.

Threats to Survival

- The loss of mature and old growth forests.
- Some of the known populations are threatened by proposed housing developments and forest harvesting.



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How You Can Help

Learn how to recognize this species and report sightings. Be an advocate of sustainable forestry practices. Woodlot owners can maintain old growth forests on their properties and avoid removing the forest understory as small trees and dead standing or fallen trees are habitat for a number of interesting lichens.



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Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

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

More Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

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