

Boreal Felt Lichen

Erioderma pedicellatum

STATUS

Endangered 

Endangered 

79

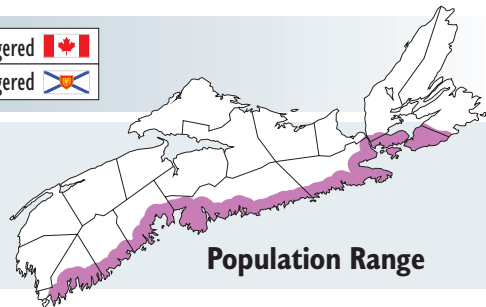


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Species Description

Boreal Felt Lichen is a foliose (leaf-like) cyanolichen, with distinctive up-turned lobes that reveal white undersides. It is a olive-green colour when wet and grey when dry. The upper surface has a matted or felt-like covering of fine whitish hairs (these are often difficult to detect), with reddish apothecia (disk-shaped fruiting bodies) on the upper surface. The lower 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 forty locations along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia.



Population Range

Habitat

Boreal Felt Lichen is found in forested Balsam Fir stands within 25 km of the coast, at elevations less than 300 m above sea level. It grows in cool, moist habitats, such as those near Sphagnum moss wetlands. It generally occurs on the north-facing side of mature Balsam Fir 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, often near Sphagnum moss wetlands.

Interesting Points

- In Sweden, this species occurred in only one area that was protected. The adjacent land was clear-cut and the lichen disappeared and was lost from the country.
- They are referred to as the Panda Bear among the lichens!
- One of the pioneers in lichen work in Nova Scotia is Wolfgang Maass, who provided numerous initial lichen records throughout Atlantic Canada.



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Wolfgang Maass

Similar Species

Refer to page 78 to view the differences between Boreal Felt Lichen, Vole Ears Lichen and Textured Lungwort. Indicator species that are often found with this species include Salted Shell Lichen (*Coccocarpia palmicola*) and Textured Lungwort (*Lobaria scrobiculata*). Boreal Felt Lichen is almost always found with these two species; however, these two species are often found without Boreal Felt Lichen.

Blistered Jellyskin (*Leptogium corticola*): Has reddish brown apothecia, but has a heavily wrinkled upper surface and no lower surface hairs.



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Salted Shell Lichen (*Coccocarpia palmicola*): Dark blue-grey; lobes rounded (2-5 mm); apothecia rare.



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Threats to Survival

- Air pollution and acid rain.
- Clearcutting and tree plantations.
- Land development.
- Climate change and severe weather events.
- Gastropod grazing (native and alien slug species).



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Slug eating Boreal Felt Lichen



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Dry Boreal Felt Lichen

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 & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: Nova Scotia Environment (902) 237-0841

Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

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

Stewardship: Search "Where to look for Boreal Felt Lichen in NS" in your internet browser