

Boreal Felt Lichen

(*Erioderma pedicellatum*)

- Boreal felt lichen is an epiphytic lichen that grows primarily on balsam fir trees.
- The leafy thallus is a partnership between a fungus and a bacterium.
- The upper surface is grey when dry and blue-green when wet. Its edges curl upwards, giving the lichen a unique, white-fringed appearance.
- Its reproductive structures (apothecia) are plush purplish brown to black nodule-like structures.



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Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

The known boreal felt lichen population is concentrated in two areas, the central Avalon Peninsula and Bay D'Espoir. Its distribution appears to be limited by climatic factors as it is found in cool, moist, and often foggy nature forests. It is frequently found near the edges of wetlands.

Population Trends

Over 5000 thalli have been counted since 1994. Monitoring indicates that there have been declines of 75% over 10 years in thalli numbers on some sites on the Avalon Peninsula.

Limiting Factors and Threats

Forest harvesting reduces available habitat. Other threats include air pollution, forest pesticides, climate change, and moose herbivory of balsam fir seedlings.

Special Significance

Boreal felt lichen appears to be extirpated from Scandinavia and New Brunswick and has undergone extreme declines in Nova Scotia. Newfoundland is home to 95% of the world's population, making the health of the Newfoundland population pivotal to the global survival of the species.

You can help protect the boreal felt lichen:

- If you own forested land, consider how you might manage it to conserve rare species.
- Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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