

Boreal Felt Lichen






Erioderma pedicellatum (Atlantic and Boreal Populations)



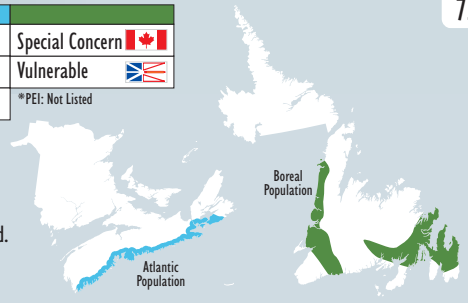
© BRAD TOMS

Species Description

Boreal Felt Lichen is a foliose (leaf-like) cyanolichen, with distinctive up-turned lobes that reveal white undersides. It is an 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.

POPULATION		
STATUS	Endangered 	Special Concern 
	Endangered 	Vulnerable 
	Endangered 	*PEI: Not Listed

Scattered along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia, and southern half and part of the western coast of Newfoundland.



Habitat

Boreal Felt Lichen generally occurs in cool, moist forested habitat at the bottom of northerly or northeasterly slopes on the north-facing side of mature Balsam Fir trunks. In Newfoundland, it can also grow on Black Spruce, and rarely on White Spruce, Red Maple, and White Birch. In Nova Scotia, it occurs exclusively in fir stands within 25 km of the coast.



© HAROLD CLAPP



© MEGAN CROWLEY

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.



© OLIVER MAASS

Wolfgang Maass

Similar Species

Refer to page 75 to view the differences between Boreal Felt Lichen, Vole Ears 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.



© BRAD TOMS

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



© ROB CAMERON

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).

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.



© TOM WEIV, MTRN

Slug eating Boreal Felt Lichen



© MEGAN CROWLEY

Dry Boreal Felt Lichen



© DND

Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: NS Environment (902) 424-3600, or NL DEC Wildlife Division (709) 637-2026

Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca

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