

Washington Status Factors

Elcode NF0000GYCA
Gname GYROMITRA CALIFORNICA
Gcomname

Number of Occurrences

B = 6 - 20

Comments This species produces handsome medium to large (the size of a man's head) fruiting bodies with a strongly fluted, cream-colored stalk sometimes with dull rose tints at the base, and a thin, irregularly convex, thin-fleshed head with a brownish gray/grayish brown upper (spore-producing) surface. Eight collections are listed in the ISMS data; Abbott and Currah (1997) cite perhaps a dozen localities, some historic and most within the range of the northern spotted owl.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

C = Few (4-12) occurrences with good viability

Comments In the ISMS data, three collections are from protected areas in Washington, those are the only one I'd rate as potentially of good viability.

Population Size

U = Unknown

Comments This can not be determined; records reflect only species presence.

Range Extent

F = 20,000-200,000 km² (about 8,000-80,000 square miles)

Comments Its reported distribution in ISMS in Washington extends from near the border with Canada into the Gifford Pinchot NF in the Cascades and extends eastward to the Methow Valley Ranger District of the Okanagon NF. It is interesting that the species apparently has not been found in recent years on the Olympic Peninsula, but at least three localities for it were known in Olympic National Park in the 1930s (Weber 2000); other data in the same report give Mt. Adams as the most southerly point for the species in Washington. Abbott and Currah (1997) may give some additional sites.

Area of Occupancy

U = Unknown

LU = Unknown

Comments Short of using molecular tools there is no way to evaluate this factor.

Long-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

U = Unknown. Long-term trend in population, range, area occupied, or number or condition of occurrences unknown

Comments The available data in ISMS do not give dates when collections were made so one can not tell if

multiple collections from the same site were made the same year or in different years.

Short-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

U = Unknown. Short-term trend in population, range, area occupied, and number and condition of occurrences unknown.

Comments The available data in ISMS do not give dates when collections were made so one can not tell if multiple collections from the same site were made the same year or in different years.

Threats

E = Localized substantial threat. Threat is moderate to severe for a small but significant proportion of the population, occurrences, or area. Ecological community occurrences are directly impacted over a small area, or in a small portion of their range, but threats require a long-term recovery.

Scope Low Severity Moderate Immediacy Moderate

Comments This species fruits in moist coniferous forests with a variety of mature trees. The specimens are often found on, or associated with, decaying wood, often in seeps or along small streams, or other very damp areas. Land management practices that result in greatly reducing the amount of coarse woody debris, that change the canopy such that the understory is significantly drier or that remove the trees completely could adversely impact this species. Logging and development are the main threats.

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

B = Few (1-3) occurrences appropriately protected and managed

Comments This is the number of protected sites in ISMS, others may be (e.g., the historic localities in Olympic National Park).

Intrinsic Vulnerability

B = Moderately Vulnerable. Species exhibits moderate age of maturity, frequency of reproduction, and/or fecundity such that populations generally tend to recover from decreases in abundance over a period of several years (on the order of 5-20 years or 2-5 generations); or species has moderate dispersal capability such that extirpated populations generally become reestablished through natural recolonization (unaided by humans). Ecological community occurrences may be susceptible to changes in composition and structure but tend to recover through natural processes given reasonable time (10-100 years).

Comments This species fruits in sites with diverse mature trees and seeps and trickles or small streams where rotting wood is plentiful. If the trees are removed and the soil dries out and the humidity falls, the survival of this species is in doubt.

Environmental Specificity

A = Very Narrow. Specialist or community with key requirements scarce.

Comments The relative paucity of specimens of this conspicuous fungus even from suitable habitats indicates it tolerates a very narrow set of environmental parameters.

Other Considerations

The preferred name for this species is *Pseudorhizina californica* (W. Phillips) Harmaja as was suggested in Weber (2002). For discussions of the change and some of the reasoning behind recognizing *Pseudorhizina* consult Harmaja (1974), Abbott and Currah (1997), and O'Donnell et al. (1997).

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Greasons

This species is known only from western North America. The relatively low number of collections is significant because these fruiting bodies are easy to spot and identify to genus. Eight sites are known for the species in Washington of which three are permanently protected. The possible association of this species with well rotted wood deserves additional study in order to determine the strength of this association.

BCD Sources

New Sources

Abbott, S.P., and Currah, R.S. 1997. The Helvellaceae: Systematic revision and occurrence in northern and northwestern North America. *Mycotaxon* 62: 1-125.

Harmaja, H. 1974. Two new families of the Pezizales: Karstenellaceae and Pseudorhizinaceae. *Karstenia* 14: 109-112.

O'Donnell, K.L., Cigelnik, E., Weber, N.S., Trappe, J.M. 1997. Phylogenetic relationships among ascomycetous truffles and the true and false morels inferred from 18S and 28S ribosomal DNA sequence analysis. *Mycologia* 89: 48-65.

Weber, N.S. 2002. Report on selected Pezizales and *Cudonia monticola* listed in the Record of Decision. Submitted to the US Forest Service. 492 pp.