

Heritage Rank Status Factors

Elcode NF000HEEL6
Gname HELVELLA ELASTICA
Gcomname

Number of Occurrences

Comments A smooth cream colored stalk that is circular in cross section and supports a saddle-shaped head with the lobes curved toward the stalk are field characters for the species; the "saddle" is often tilted with one lobe pointing the sky and the other toward the ground. This species fruits in late summer to fall at low to high elevations below tree line. ISMS data includes 105 sites (really collections, something wrong with the totals) within the region of the northern spotted owl; however only 33 or so individual sites are listed in the ISMS Buffer table and it does not appear that sites from Weber (1995) were included. This species has been reported from Europe, mountane areas of Asia, and montane and northern areas of North America (Dissing 1966, Imazeki et al. 1988). Dissing's(1966) list of specimens examined is about 3.5 pages long; Abbott and Currah (1997) provide extensive information on collections in western Canada and parts of the western United States.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

Comments In some areas this species seems to be among the more common of the larger epigeous ascomycetes at certain times of the year and the populations in these areas appear to be viable.

Population Size

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

Range Extent

H = > 2,500,000 km² (greater than 1,000,000 square miles)

Comments This species has been reported from Europe, montane areas of Asia, and montane and northern areas of North America (Dissing 1966, Imazeki et al. 1988, Abbott and Currah 1997, Weber 1973) and is locally abundant. Its range concieveably includes much of the montane and north temperate to boreal Northern Hemisphere but data for large parts of Asia are not readily available.

Area of Occupancy

U = Unknown

LU = Unknown

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

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

E = Relatively Stable ($\pm 25\%$ change)

Comments Given the large range of this species, overall it should be quite stable but there are areas where it is not flourishing.

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

E = Stable. Population, range, area occupied, and/or number or condition of occurrences unchanged or remaining within $\pm 10\%$ fluctuation

Comments Given the large range of this species, over all it should be quite stable but there are areas where it is not flourishing

Threats

H = Unthreatened. Threats if any, when considered in comparison with natural fluctuation and change, are minimal or very localized, not leading to significant loss or degradation of populations, occurrences, or area even over a few decades' time. (Severity, scope, and/or immediacy of threat considered Insignificant.)

Scope Insignificant **Severity** Insignificant **Immediacy** Insignificant

Comments Global climate change, especially heating, could impact this species as could wide-spread anthropogenic activities resulting in decline or removal (e.g., logging) of forested areas (particularly of coniferous forests).

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

U = Unknown whether any occurrences are appropriately protected and managed

Comments Of the ISMS sites, seven are in G1/2 areas, and an additional two are in protected (at least temporarily) LSRs (in Oregon). Additional recent and historical sites in Weber (1995) may also have come from sites that are protected. Data on other areas is not available.

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 In my experience this species is usually associated with mature conifers, esp. members of the Pinaceae, although the trees may be scattered in park-like settings as well as in dense stands, thus changes that impact the trees are likely to impact this species as well. On a world basis this species is probably in good shape.

Environmental Specificity

C = Moderate. Generalist or community with some key requirements scarce.

Comments In my experience this species is usually associated with mature conifers, esp. members of the Pinaceae although the trees may be scattered in park-like settings as well as in dense stands; it also occurs in mildly disturbed areas such as along paths and stream banks. Much remains to be learned about the ecological amplitude of the species but does appear to be rather broad.

Other Considerations

NRANK - N3.

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Grank G4

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Greasons

On a world basis this species appears to be doing well although there seems to be a dearth of data on selected populations over time.

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.

Dissing 1966a. Dissing, H. 1966. The genus *Helvella* in Europe with special emphasis on the species found in Norden *Dansk Bot. Ark.* 25: 1-172.

Imazeki, R., Otani, Y. and Hongo, T 1988. *Fungi of Japan*. Tokyo: Yama-key Publishers Co., Ltd.

Weber, N.S. 1995. Report on FEMAT Strategy ! Epigeous discomycetes. Submitted to the the USDA Forest Service. 252 pp.