

Washington Status Factors

Elcode NF000HEEL6
Gname HELVELLA ELASTICA
Gcomname

Number of Occurrences

C = 21- 80

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 provides data on 21 sites with many collections from some sites; additional sites may be mentioned in Weber (1995) and Abbott and Currah (1997).

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

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

Comments Six sites are well protected in Washington. Only in protected sites is viability an issue and no data are available to show if the species "repeats" in a locality. However, many collections have been made in some sites and that data should be checked for repeats.

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 In Washington is known from the Cascades and region around the southern part of Puget Sound. Castellano et al. (1999) list a site from the Olympic Peninsula, no site on the Peninsula is shown on the map.

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

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

Comments insufficient data

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 insufficient data

Threats

B = Moderate and imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe and imminent for a significant proportion (20-60%) of the population, occurrences, or area. Ecological community occurrences are directly impacted over a moderate area, either causing irreversible damage or requiring a long-term recovery.

Scope Moderate **Severity** Moderate **Immediacy** Moderate

Comments Anthropogenic activities resulting in decline or removal (e.g., logging) of forested areas (particularly of coniferous forests) are the greatest threats on the state level. The species can tolerate mild, small disturbances such as occur along trails.

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

U = Unknown whether any occurrences are appropriately protected and managed

Comments Seven of the Washington ISMS sites are in G1/2 areas; an additional five are in unprotected protected LSRs.

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 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.

Environmental Specificity

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

Comments 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.

Other Considerations

In many parts of North America this species approaches "weed" status in the fall months. One of the interesting observations that has come from the ROD surveys is the relative paucity of specimens in the range of the northern spotted owl which includes a lot of apparently prime areas for this species. Population biology studies at the molecular level might yield some insights on what is going on with this species in this region.

Edition 11/12/2002 **Edauthor** Nancy S. Weber

Grank S3 **Grank Date** 11/23/2002

Reasons

While this species appears to have been abundant at some of the 15 known sites, the data do not indicate

whether those points reflect a "good year" for the species or its persistence over several years in the same location. On the surface, of the three states involved in the range of the northern spotted owl, Washington's population of this species is in the best shape. If the data on dates is analyzed and shows repeated fruitings in a given area, possible upgrade to S4 status is worth considering.

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.

Castellano, M.A., Smith, J.A., O'Dell, T., Cazares, E., and Nugent, S. 1999. Handbook to Strategy 1 Fungal Species in the Northwest Forest Plan. Portland, Oregon: USDA Forest Service, PNWRS PNW-GTR-476.

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