

California Status Factors

Elcode NF00HYCA21
Gname HYGROPHORUS CAERULEUS
Gcomname

Number of Occurrences

Comments This distinctive gilled mushroom is grayish blue to blue or cream-colored with blue tints. One collection (probably dating from roughly 1950-1980) is known from the Mt. Shasta area in California (Largent, 1985). It may be extinct now.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

U = Unknown what number of occurrences with good viability

Comments No data is available on the known site.

Population Size

U = Unknown

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

Range Extent

B = 100-250 km² (about 40-100 square miles)

Comments Reported only from the area around Mount Shasta in California (Largent 1985).

Area of Occupancy

U = 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 too little data to draw any conclusions

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 too little data to draw any conclusions

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 High Immediacy Moderate

Comments Most, if not all, the sites are in areas where wildfires are frequent on a historical basis. This mushroom is likely mycorrhizal with conifers. Thus changes brought about by logging, mining, fires, and development that results in the loss of trees and changes in the sites also threaten the existence of the species-- and it may already have been eliminated from the state.

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

U = Unknown whether any occurrences are appropriately protected and managed

Comments The California historic site may or may not be protected; available data on that collection was sparse.

Intrinsic Vulnerability

U = Unknown

Comments The degree of vulnerability under current forest practices is relatively low. However, this species occurs in areas that could undergo drastic changes due to logging and development with changes in land management policies at the Federal level. But if the species is extinct in California then it is no longer vulnerable.

Environmental Specificity

B = Narrow. Specialist or community with key requirements common.

Comments This species fruits in the spring (May to July depending on altitude) and has been found near meltings snowbanks as well as in areas where the snow has been gone for several weeks but the ground is still moist.

Other Considerations

It is relatively easy to find and identify in the field so the paucity of sites is likely a reflection of true scarcity.

Edition 11/17/2002 **Edauthor** Nancy S. Weber

Grank SH **Grank Date** 1/9/2003

Reasons

Fruiting bodies of this species are relatively easy to find and identify in the field when they are present. The paucity of sites is likely a reflection of true scarcity. Only one site has been reported from California and it may have been treated as an "historic" site.

BCD Sources

New Sources

1999. 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.

Largent, D.L. 1985. The Agaricales(Gilled Fungi)of California. 5. Hygrophoraceae. Eureka: Mad River Press, Inc. 208 pp.