

California Status Factors

Elcode NF00POAL28
Gname PODOSTROMA ALUTACEUM
Gcomname

Number of Occurrences

B = 6 - 20

Comments The fruiting bodies resemble small, stubby, cream-colored, fingers that are dotted with bumps at maturity and superficially resemble those of species of Cordyceps. The nutritional mode is unknown. Within the range of the northern spotted owl, two sites are reported from California with vouchers at MICH (Fogel n.d.); five sites appear in the maps we were given, and only 3 sites are in the ISMS data set on protected localities. I'm not sure how they add up in terms of number of overlapping collections. Additional collections from the northwest are deposited at WSP but I don't recall if any are from California.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

B = Very few (1-3) occurrences with good viability

Comments Two collections are from protected G1/2 sites.

Population Size

U = Unknown

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

Range Extent

D = 1,000-5,000 km² (about 400-2,000 square miles)

Comments Known sites in California are coastal and extend from near the Oregon border (Del Norte Co.) south along the coast to about Sonoma Co.

Area of Occupancy

U = Unknown

LE = 1,000-5,000 km (about 620-3,000 miles)

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 insufficient information

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 insufficient information

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 This is a species of mature forests with abundant rotting wood in them. Threats to the forest habitat are also threats to this fungus. Logging of low elevation moist coniferous forests and development are the major threats.

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

Comments The maps were were given show five sites in California, the ISMS data base gives three sites, one of which is protected at the G1/2 level.

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 is a species of mature forests; many such forests are vulnerable to logging and development, especially the low-elevation forests in the fog belt along the coasts.

Environmental Specificity

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

Comments The species appears to be rare throughout its range which may be a sign that some undertimed but rare combination of environmental factors must be met for it to become established and to persist.

Other Considerations

Many collectors mistake this species for a species of Cordyceps, a group that parasitizes insects, spiders and their relatives, and the deer truffles (Elaphomyces).

Edition 11/18/2002 **Edauthor** Nancy S. Weber

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Reasons

These fruiting bodies are relatively small, but they stand out against the duff and forest floor litter. Many mycologists have been, and are, interested in this group of fungi and tend to prize their finds like trophies. Thus if this species were common, the evidence would be in herbaria around the world; unfortunately there was no time to check the herbaria likely to have collections from California, e.g., SFSU, WSP.

BCD Sources

New Sources

Fogel, R. n.d. MICH Fungal Bioinformatics Project. Retrieved 2002.11 from <http://www.herb.lsa.umich.edu/Bioinformatics.htm>.