

# California Status Factors

**Elcode** NLCAL33040  
**Gname** CHAENOTHECA FERRUGINEA  
**Gcomname** blood whiskers

## Number of Occurrences

E = >300

**Comments** Number of known occurrences in California = 1+.

## Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

U = Unknown what number of occurrences with good viability

**Comments**

## Population Size

U = Unknown

**Comments**

## Range Extent

H = > 2,500,000 km<sup>2</sup> (greater than 1,000,000 square miles)

**Comments** Restricted to northwestern California.

## Area of Occupancy

A = <0.4 km<sup>2</sup> (less than about 100 acres)

LA = <4 km (less than about 2.5 miles)

**Comments** Occupancy for epiphytic lichens and fungi can be difficult to estimate, particularly for calicioid species (including this species) which often occur as colonies covering only a few square centimeters on single tree trunk within a stand and then again several hundred meters away. The occupancy given above is roughly estimated as the total worldwide distribution of the species; the actual coverage of the species condensed so as to be continuous may not be much more than a few hectares.

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

C = Substantial Decline (decline of 50-75%)

**Comments** Most calicioid lichens and fungi inhabit aged bark or wood in sheltered locations protected from direct rain interception. This species is highly restricted to the bark of old trees; in the Pacific Northwest of North America, most known occurrences are on oaks and conifers > 200 years old in open situations, with occasional occurrences on younger trees (e.g. 150 years old) (Peterson unpublished data, Peterson & McCune 2000). Removal of old forests in North America and through the rest of the species' distribution has undoubtedly had severe impacts on the number of populations, population sizes, and average dispersal distance necessary to colonize new substrates.

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

D = Declining. Decline of 10-30% in population, range, area occupied, and/or number or condition of occurrences

**Comments** With advances in conservation, the removal of old-growth forests throughout the species range is slowing, but has not stopped.

## 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** High

**Comments** Worldwide, the species has gone through drastic declines since pre-industrial times. The Pacific Northwest, due to logging, has been no exception. However, the rate of loss in the Pacific Northwest has slowed. Although little is known about the reproductive and dispersal biology of this species, it is thought that the species can overcome some habitat fragmentation and, at this point, is fairly secure from extirpation or extinction. However, given the strong old-growth association of this species, it should not be ignored. That, combined with its relative infrequency in the Pacific Northwest warrants consideration in conservation actions.

## Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

U = Unknown whether any occurrences are appropriately protected and managed

**Comments**

## Intrinsic Vulnerability

A = Highly Vulnerable. Species is slow to mature, reproduces infrequently, and/or has low fecundity such that populations are very slow (> 20 years or 5 generations) to recover from decreases in abundance; or species has low dispersal capability such that extirpated populations are unlikely to become reestablished through natural recolonization (unaided by humans). Ecological community occurrences are highly susceptible to changes in composition and structure that rarely if ever are reversed through natural processes even over substantial time periods (> 100 years).

**Comments** Given high vulnerability rank because it will not return to a forest for a century or more after a stand-initiating disturbance. Although the species is limited to substrates that are very slow to develop and the maturation time required between colonization and reproduction is unknown, the species does demonstrate a remarkable ability to disperse to appropriate substrates once they are available, even when those substrates are rather isolated. This may be due to use of a dispersal vector such as birds or arthropods which target similar habitats.

## Environmental Specificity

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

**Comments**

## Other Considerations

CA likely includes the southern end of its distribution, but where that occurs in CA is unknown; further knowledge of the species in CA is needed.

**Edition** 2/20/2003      **Edauthor** Eric B. Peterson

**Grank** S1S3      **Grank Date** 11/22/2002

## Greasons

CA likely includes the southern end of its distribution, but where that occurs in CA is unknown; further knowledge of the species in CA is needed. It is clearly rare, and more information is needed to develop a confident state rank.

## BCD Sources

### New Sources

ISMS (Interagency Species Management System). 5 August, 2002.

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Peterson, E. B. & McCune, B. 2000. Environmental Relations of Calicioid Lichens and Fungi in a Temperate Landscape. In: Peterson, E. B. Analysis and prediction of patterns in lichen communities over the western Oregon landscape. Ph.D. dissertation, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

Rikkinen, J. 2003. Calicioid lichens and fungi in the forests and woodlands of western Oregon. *Annales Botanici Fennici* (accepted, should come out in the first volume of 2003).

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Tibell, L. 1975. The Caliciales of boreal North America. *Symbolae Botanicae Upsalienses* 21(2): 1-128.

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