

# Oregon Status Factors

**Elcode** NF000HEEL6  
**Gname** HELVELLA ELASTICA  
**Gcomname**

## Number of Occurrences

B = 6 - 20

**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. Approximately a dozen sites are on record for it from Oregon ( ISMS, Weber 1995).

## Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

U = Unknown what number of occurrences with good viability

**Comments** Two sites are well protected, six at least temporarily protected, and the rest are unprotected. Only in protected sites is viability an issue and no data is available to show if the species "repeats" in a locality. Without dates of collections viability can not be addressed.

## Population Size

U = Unknown

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

## Range Extent

F = 20,000-200,000 km<sup>2</sup> (about 8,000-80,000 square miles)

**Comments** In Oregon it has been found in eleven sites. The map indicates most sites are in the Cascades, some in the Coast Range as far north as Marys Peak and a few scattered in the other parts of the target area. No data is available on its possible occurrence outside the range of the northern spotted owl in Oregon.

## 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

B = Few (1-3) occurrences appropriately protected and managed

**Comments** Of the eleven Oregon sites mentioned in IISMS two are in LSRs (in Oregon protected at least for now), and six are in Matrix land. .

## 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. In so far as the forests are threatened, this species is threatened.

## 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. Oregon would seem to be prime territory for the species but few "good" collections (5-10 fruting bodies) are known from the state, an indication perhaps that there are some limiting factors people have yet to appreciate.

## Other Considerations

ORNHIC List 3. 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

## **Greasons**

The low number of known sites for this species in Oregon is surprising in view of the fact that the fruiting bodies are relatively easy to find and at first glance abundant suitable habitat is present in the region. Targeted field work might reveal additional populations but given the amount of collecting in this region, it appears that this species is uncommon in the state.

## **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.