

Oregon Status Factors

Elcode NF0000SORH
Gname SOWERBYELLA REHNANA
Gcomname

Number of Occurrences

Comments These brilliant orange stipitate cups may be as much as 30 mm in diameter and are formed in clusters each of which has a common point of origin below the surface of the ground. Of all the states where this species is known to occur, Oregon is the leader in the number of sites, either a compliment to the field crews or an indication of abundance. The species is reported in the ISMS data from 28 localities in Oregon, one one of which is protected.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

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

Comments Protected sites are the only ones that are potentially viable in the long term and only one site is protected in Oregon.

Population Size

U = Unknown

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

Range Extent

H = > 2,500,000 km² (greater than 1,000,000 square miles)

Comments The ISMS data set includes records from the Mt. Hood, Willamette, and Klamath National Forests and the Salem, Roseburg, and Medford BLM districts of the BLM. Few, if any collections, have been found on the east side of the crest of the Cascades; a few collections are known from the Coast Range or its foothills.

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

U = Unknown. Long-term trend in population, range, area occupied, or number or condition of occurrences unknown

Comments The available data in ISMS does not give dates when collections were made so one can not tell if multiple collections from the same site were made the same year or not. However, label data on several collections at SFSU indicate that the species fruited at least eight years starting in 1962 and ending in 1992 (Weber 1996) in one locality in California, an indication that the species may

persist for some time in some habitats and localities.

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 The available data in ISMS does not give dates when collections were made so one can not tell if multiple collections from the same site were made the same year or not.

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 species is found in moist coniferous forests with a variety of mature trees. The specimens are often found on, or associated with moss beds and decaying wood can often be found in the soil when one tries to excavate the bases. Land management practices that result in greatly reducing the amount of coarse woody debris, that change the canopy such that the understory is significantly drier, or that remove the trees completely could adversely impact this species. Logging and other ground-disturbing activities are the main activities that threaten it.

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

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

Comments Of the ISMS one Oregon locality is protected at the G1/2 level; 17 additional collections are reported from unprotected 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 most often found in sites with diverse mature trees, deep moss beds, and decaying bits of wood in the soil. If the trees are removed and the soil dries out and the humidity falls, the survival of this species is in doubt. There is no evidence that it can survive in situ the decades between land management activities and regrowth of the forest to a suitable stage.

Environmental Specificity

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

Comments The relative paucity of specimens of this conspicuous fungus even from suitable habitats indicates it tolerates a relatively narrow set of environmental parameters.

Other Considerations

ORNHIC List 3. Synonym: *Aleuria rhenana*. Oregon is the richest of all states in known sites and collections although there is a long tradition of interest in the cup-fungi in neighboring states. Oregon is the heart of the range of this species in the PNW.

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Greasons

This species appears to be truly rare throughout its range; the fruiting bodies are eyecatching in their coloration and relatively easy to identify at least to genus so the observations on rarity should be taken seriously. This species is patchy and irregular in its fruiting pattern. Several years may elapse between fruitings, a factor that makes surveying for it problematical at best. As suitable habitats are lost to logging, development, and other forest-altering or forest-removing activities the remaining populations will become increasingly isolated and vulnerable. Few sites are protected and many of the unprotected sites are in areas that may be logged. More of the known populations need to be protected in some manner. Given that Oregon appears to have more good habitats for this species than do neighboring states, protecting at least a few more seems prudent. If the Oregon sites are destroyed, the California populations will be isolated by hundreds of miles from the nearest populations.

BCD Sources

New Sources

Weber, N.S. 1995. Report on FEMAT Strategy 1 epigeous Discomycetes. Submitted to the USDA Forest Service.