Conservation Status Assessment

Scientific Name: ***Sparassis radicata***
Classification: Fungus
Assessment area: California

Heritage Rank: **S3**
Rank Date: 6/15/2018

Rank Reasons: Formerly S. crispa, see global notes. I (S. Loring) am unsure how to handle this species, globally or by each state. This is not a rare species on the west coast, but goes extremely under-reported to agency databases and herbariums. I frequently see it throughout forested areas of the PNW -- I cannot count how many times I have encountered this species, not reported it, and then added it to my dinner. It turns up multiple times at nearly all forays I have been too. It is a prized edible and commonly documented via online mushrooms forums.

Range Extent:

G = 200,000-2,500,000 sq km (~80,000-1,000,000 sq mi)

Comments: The California range is at least 207,000 sq. km. There are sites in the Coastal Mountains of California from Del Norte to San Luis Obispo Counties. Additional reputable sites from iNaturalist in Tahoe National Forest and near Placerville. Other locations may be unreported.

Population Size:

Not assessed

Comments: None

Number of Occurrences:

C = 21 - 80

Comments: There are at least 19 known occurrences in California, with additional reputable sites reported on iNaturalist. Given the under-reporting of this species it likely falls within the 21-80 occurrence range.

Area of Occupancy:

E = 26-125 4-km2 grid cells

Comments: There are at least 30 grid squares occupied by this species in California.

Good Viability:

C = Few (4-12) occurrences with excellent or good viability or ecological integrity

Comments: At least 4 occurrences are in state parks or wilderness areas.

Environmental Sensitivity:

C = Moderate. Generalist or community with some key requirements scarce

Comments: A pathogen and saprotroph on roots and wood of trees.

Short Term Trends:

Not Evaluated

Comments: None

Long Term Trends:

Not Evaluated

Comments: None

Threat Impact: C = Medium

Comments:
Around half of the sites have cities, towns or a college campus as the location suggesting that they may be threatened by residential or commercial development. This is a sought after edible species making it possible for the fruiting bodies to be short lived in areas regularly visited by people. Harvesting the fruiting bodies would reduce the opportunities for spore dispersal, but it would not be expected to damage the mycelium. However as a pathogen and saprotroph, it would need to disperse to new sites as its substrate is killed and decomposed. Approximately 80% of sites are not in permanently protected areas. If those sites are logged on a 40 year rotation, around 20% of sites would be impacted over 10 years and around 80% of sites would be impacted over 100 years.

Intrinsic Vulnerability: Not Evaluated

Comments: None

Calculated Rank: S3

Rank Author: Michael Russell; Lindsey Wise
Rank Reviewer: Scot Loring; Lindsey Wise

References:

Wang, Z.; Binder, M.; Dai, Y.; Hibbett, D. 2004. Phylogenetic relationships of Sparassis inferred from nuclear and mitochondrial ribosomal DNA and RNA polymerase sequences. Mycologia. Volume 9, No. 5:1015-1029.

Light, W. and M. Woehrel. 2009. Clarification of the Nomenclatural Confusion of the Genus Sparassis [Polyporales: Sparassidaceae] in North America. FUNGI Volume 2:4 Fall 2009.

Definitions and Resources:

Rank Prefixes	
G	Global rank, applied to taxon's full geographic range
S	State rank, applied to taxon's range within the designated state
Rank Values	
1	Critically imperiled
2	Imperiled
3	Vulnerable
4	Apparently secure, uncommon but not rare
5	Secure, common, abundant, and widespread

Suggested citation:
Oregon Biodiversity Information Center. 2017. Fungi Conservation Status Assessments. Institute for Natural Resources, Portland State University and Oregon State University. Portland, Oregon and Corvallis, Oregon.

More assessments available at http://inr.oregonstate.edu/orbic/rare-species/ranking-documentation

Element rank calculator resources at http://www.natureserve.org/conservation-tools/conservation-rank-calculator

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