

Conservation Status Assessment

Scientific Name: *Sparassis radicata*

Classification: Fungus

Assessment area: Global

Heritage Rank: **G4**

Rank Date: 6/15/2018

Rank Reasons: Name now *Sparassis radicata* (previously *Sparassis crispa*) based on presentation at the Oregon Mycological Society, 2/23/2015; Wang, Z., et al., 2004 supports that *Sparassis radicata* is our western cauliflower mushroom and *Sparassis crispa* is the eastern counterpart; Index Fungorum and Mycobank still have *Sparassis crispa* (1821) as the current name and *Sparassis radicata* (1917) as a synonym. S. Loring is 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. Loring frequently sees it throughout forested areas of the PNW. It turns up multiple times at nearly all forays in the PNW. It is a prized edible and commonly documented via online mushrooms forums.

Range Extent: H = >2,500,000 sq km (> 1,000,000 sq mi)

Comments: Previously considered a synonym of *Sparassis crispa*, *Sparassis radicata* has been determined in recent genetic studies to be a distinct species separate from *Sparassis crispa* specimens in Europe and Asia (Wang et al., 2004). *Sparassis radicata* present in Northern California to southern British Columbia; Idaho; disjunct sites in eastern North America: Tennessee (Wang et al., 2004), and Georgia (cited in Light and Woehrel, 2009); additional sites certainly present. Given these *S. radicata* sites, the range is well over 2.5 million sq km.

Population Size: Not assessed

Comments: None

Number of Occurrences: D = 81 - 300

Comments: Given the relatively recent taxonomic change with this species, exact counts are unknown, but it is an often-encountered species in the Pacific Northwest and likely falls within this range. 138 sites are reported for Oregon, Washington, and California in the state ranking reports; there are additional sites elsewhere.

Area of Occupancy: F = 126-500 4-km² grid cells

Comments: Given the relatively recent taxonomic change with this species, exact counts are unknown, but it is an often-encountered species in the Pacific Northwest and likely falls within this range. 205 occupied grid squares are reported in the Oregon, Washington, and California state ranking reports; there are additional sites present elsewhere.

Good Viability: D = Some (13-40) occurrences with excellent or good viability or ecological integrity

Comments: Given the relatively recent taxonomic change with this species, exact counts are unknown, but it is an often-encountered species in the Pacific Northwest the number of sites occurring in protected areas likely falls within this range. 17 protected sites are reported in the Oregon, Washington, and California state ranking reports; other protected sites may be present across the global range. Wang et al. (2004) cited a specimen in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee.

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:
Some sites have cities, college campuses, towns or recreational residential areas as the location information suggesting they may be threatened by residential 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.

Intrinsic Vulnerability: Not Evaluated

Comments: None

Calculated Rank: G4

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

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| 3 | Vulnerable |
| 4 | Apparently secure, uncommon but not rare |
| 5 | Secure, common, abundant, and widespread |

Suggested citation:

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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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