

Conservation Status Assessment

Scientific Name: *Sparassis radicata*

Classification: Fungus

Assessment area: Washington

Heritage Rank: **S3S4**

Rank Date: 6/15/2018

Assigned Rank Comments: None.

Rank Adjustment Notes: Formerly *S. crispa*, see global notes. S. Loring says "I 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." L. Wise also encountered this species many times when working as a seasonal botanist at Mt. Rainier National Park. Given under-reporting and uncertainty about threats, ranked as S3S4.

Range Extent: F = 20,000-200,000 sq km (~8,000-80,000 sq mi)

Comments: The Washington range is 55,570 sq. km. There are sites in the Olympic Peninsula, the San Juan Islands, the Kitsap Peninsula, and the Cascade Mountains.

Population Size: Not assessed

Comments: None

Number of Occurrences: C = 21 - 80

Comments: There are 33 known sites in Washington.

Area of Occupancy: E = 26-125 4-km² grid cells

Comments: This species occupies 40 grid squares in Washington.

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

Comments: 9 occurrences are in state or national parks.

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 25% of sites have cities, a college campus, 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. Approximately 72% of sites are not in permanently protected areas. If those sites are logged on a 40 year rotation, around 19% of sites would be impacted over 10 years and around 72% of sites would be impacted over 100 years.

Intrinsic Vulnerability: Not Evaluated

Comments: None

Calculated Rank: S3

Rank Author: Michael Russell

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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