

## Scaly Fringe Lichen

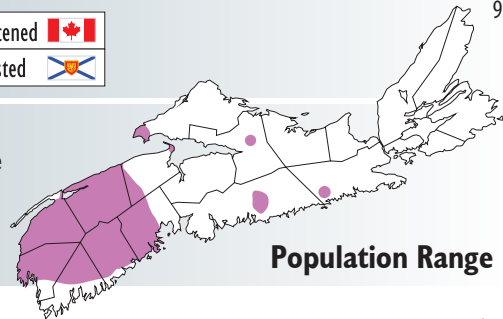
*Heterodermia squamulosa*

<b>STATUS</b>	Threatened 
	Not listed 



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Most known occurrences are in higher density pockets in Clare and Cape Split.



## Habitat

Scaly Fringe Lichen requires forest habitats with high continuity over time that are comprised of long lived and shade tolerant deciduous tree species such as Yellow Birch, Sugar Maple, Red Maple, White Ash, and Beech. Habitat types include upland hardwood forest, Red Maple swamp, and lakeshores. Occasionally occurs in mixedwood forests that include Red Spruce.



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## Species Description

Scaly Fringe Lichen is a foliose (leaf-like) chlorolichen that is pale greenish-grey in colour and typically 5-10 cm in diameter. It is comprised of many 0.2-1.2 mm sized lobes that are populated by upswept, fan-like lobules (small, modified lobes). It has a purplish underside (centrally) and dark rhizines (root-like attachment) located along the edges of lobes.

Most Scaly Fringe Lichen are found on mature hardwood trees in areas of low disturbance and often with less acidic soil.

## Interesting Points

- In Canada, it is only known to be found in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with the majority of occurrences found in Clare and Cape Split.
- The presence of apothecia (sexual reproductive structures) has been observed on one occasion in Digby County and is only the second instance in the world.
- Based on significant search effort in partial harvests, Scaly Fringe Lichen is sensitive to open, sunlit areas and is not found in areas with little crown closure.



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## Similar Species

Scaly Fringe Lichen is most similar to other Fringe Lichen species (*Heterodermia* spp.). It is the only species in its genus with upswept, fan-like lobules. Occasionally, the lobule tips will fall off and reveal the medulla (interior part of the lichen), which can look like soredia (tiny round particles). A closer inspection with a hand lens can confirm the lack of soredia and the presence of the white, fibrous medulla. All other similar species in Nova Scotia have soredia and lack a purple-pigmented underside centrally. Very young or small specimens can be difficult to identify but are rarely encountered.



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Soredia present on *Heterodermia neglecta*



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*Heterodermia neglecta*

## Threats to Survival

- Forestry operations (harvesting of old forests, forest harvesting resulting in increased light levels).
- Development (commercial and residential development, road construction).
- Pollution (air pollution and acid rain).



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## How You Can Help

Learn to recognize this species and report your sightings. Participate in community bio blitzes. Advocate for sustainable forestry practices and climate change initiatives and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions. Woodlot owners can maintain old forests and forested wetlands on their properties.



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Looking high and low for lichen

## Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

**Contact:** Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables:  
[biodiversity@novascotia.ca](mailto:biodiversity@novascotia.ca)

**Info:** [www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447