

Species Description

White-rimmed Shingle Lichen is a squamulose (scale-like) cyanolichen. Thalli (individuals) are irregularly shaped and measure 1-8 cm across. Squamules (scales), which are more common than lobes, are usually less than 0.5 mm wide and lobes are up to 2 mm wide. Lobes and squamules can be grey, olive, rust-brown and have distinctly white edges, giving them a frosty look. The blue-black hypothallus (lower part, often sprawling away from edges) is often visible. The apothecia (sexual reproductive structures) are reddish-brown discs with a white rim and measure around 0.5-1.5 mm across.



Habitat

White-rimmed Shingle Lichen primarily grows on the bark of older medium to large sized Red Maple trees and is often seen at eye-level and lower. It is also known to occur on Eastern White Cedar, Red Oak and even rocks. It grows on trees in cool, low disturbance, high moisture and humid environments such as wetlands and forests adjacent to rivers or lakes. It requires excellent air quality and cannot thrive in areas with significant air pollution or acid rain.







Old red maple/hemlock forest

Keep an eye out when in cool, foggy areas for White-rimmed Shingle Lichen on trees and rocks in or near wetlands. Often found on the upward facing side of trees with a slight lean.

Interesting Points

- The Canada Warbler and Olivesided Flycatcher are found in similar habitats and have been spotted during White-rimmed Shingle Lichen surveys.
- In New Brunswick and Ontario, it grows exclusively on the bark of Eastern White Cedar trees.
- In Nova Scotia, it is known to occur on Eastern White Cedar (a species at risk in Nova Scotia) at one site in Hectanooga, Digby County.



Similar Species

Brown-eyed Shingle Lichen (Pannaria rubiginosa): Usually foliose/lobed throughout and lacking squamules, often with a regular round-ish thallus shape that lacks a sprawling hypothallus, and lobes usually lacking white edges.



Blue Felt Lichen (Pectenia plumbea): Lack of white rims on apothecia, foliose throughout and lacking squamules, often with a regular round-ish thallus shape that lacks a sprawling hypothallus, rounded lobes with long white wrinkles and scalloped edges.



Pectenia (Protopannaria pezizoides):
Lacking hypothallus, lobes or squamules can have lighter margins where they overlap, but do not have pothallus, distinct "white-rims".



Threats to Survival

- Forestry operations (clear cutting, harvesting of old forests).
- Climate change (increase of severe weather events, decline in fog frequency).
- Pollution (air pollution and acid rain).
- Gastropod grazing (alien slug species).

How You Can Help

Learn to recognize this species and keep an eye out for it when you're outdoors. If you believe you have found it, take a photograph, record the location, and report your sighting. Advocate for sustainable forestry practices, climate change initiatives, and the protection of old forests in the province.



Clear cutting



Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables: biodiversity@novascotia.ca
Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca; Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447