

# Frosted Glass-whiskers

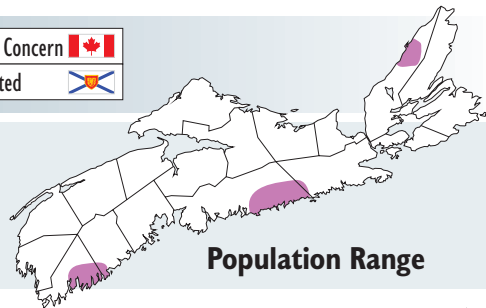
*Sclerophora peronella*

**STATUS**

Special Concern 

Not Listed 

Currently known to occur at six locations in Nova Scotia.



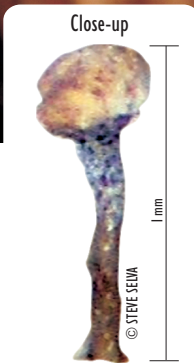
## Habitat

Frosted Glass-whiskers grows in the exposed wood core of Red Maple trees which are often quite old and are twisted with old scars. In western Canada, it has also been observed growing directly on hardwood bark. It is found in poorly drained, old-growth mixedwood forests composed of mostly Red Maple and Balsam Fir. The forest understory is often composed of ferns, shrubs, grasses and Sphagnum moss.



## Species Description

Frosted Glass-whiskers is a stubble lichen with tiny, pale pink apothecia (spore-bearing structures), mounted on a 0.5-1 mm reddish-brown stalk. A powdery whitish to yellow brown substance covers ("frosts") the top of the lichen. The thallus (main body) is found within the tree, and is therefore not visible.



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Frosted Glass-whiskers is typically observed in old-growth hardwood forests, growing in the heart-wood and sap-wood of Red Maples.

## Interesting Points

- This tiny cryptic stubble lichen is very rare and threatened over much of its global range.
- In Canada, six of the seven known locations of this species are in Nova Scotia. The seventh location is in British Columbia! It is only known in two locations in the United States.
- The entire known physical area of coverage by this species in Canada is less than 2 square meters.



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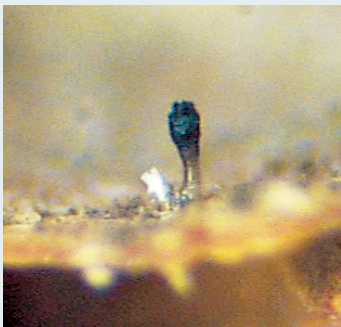
## Similar Species

There are more than 45 stubble lichen species in Nova Scotia. They are distinguished under a microscope by comparing the spores and apothecia. Learn how to recognize stubble lichens and then look for this species on Red Maple scars in old-growth forests.



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*Chaenotheca servitii*



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*Phaeocalicium minutissimum*

## Threats to Survival

- Forestry activities and land clearing eliminates or reduces old-growth stands on which this species depends.
- Our lack of knowledge about where this species is located.

## How You Can Help

Anyone can learn about stubble lichens and how to recognize them - and report sightings! Be an advocate of sustainable forestry practices. Woodlot owners can maintain old growth forests on their properties.



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## Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

**Contact:** Nova Scotia Environment (902) 237-0841

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

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings)