

BUXBAUMIA MINAKATAE Okam.  
Ethereal Elf Cap Moss

FAMILY: Buxbaumiaceae

SYNONYMS: *Buxbaumia subcylindrica* Grout.

HABIT: These apparently ephemeral plants can be recognized in the field only by the presence of sporophytes which range up to 10 mm in length. The lance-cylindric, somewhat inclined capsules are perched on top of an erect seta, the overall appearance vaguely resembling a miniature portable hair dryer.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is similar to its rare counterpart *Buxbaumia aphylla*, the bug-on-a-stick moss. The two species, however, occupy quite different habitats and the capsule on *B. aphylla* is broadly ovoid and flattened on top, resembling an Aladdin's lamp, whereas the capsule of *B. minakatae* is cylindrical and tube-shaped.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfld, N.S., VT, MS, MI, NY, VA, NC, OH; Japan, Siberia.

STATE RANGE: This rare species is known from one post-1980 collection from Champaign County.

HABITAT: Typically occurs in swampy habitats where it grows on old, moist, soft decorticated logs and stumps.

HAZARDS: Drying or drainage of the habitat; removal of shade; development of trails.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but predictably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect 2-3 single plants (sporophytes) only after spores have been released.

COMMENTS: This species is great rarity and is represented by only a few collections in North America. The sporophytes appear to last from only a few weeks to a month. In Ohio this would be from mid-August through late-October.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Crum, H.A. and L.E. Anderson. 1981. Mosses of Eastern North America. Two vols. Columbia University Press.

Ireland, R.R. 1982. Moss Flora of the Maritime Provinces Botany, No. 13.



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