

SCORPIDIUM SCORPIOIDES (Hedw.) Limpr.
Turgid Brown Worm Moss

FAMILY: Amblystegiaceae

CHARACTERS: Very large (up to 15 cm. long), 4-6 mm wide, yellow or reddish-green turgid and julaceous plants. Leaves concave, 2-4 mm long, costa weak, short, double or lacking. Leaves rugose-wrinkled when dry. Plants sparingly branched.

SIMILAR SPECIES: When covered with a limy deposit, it could be confused with other brown mosses such as Drepanocladus (sensu lato), Cratoneuron filicinum or Palustriella commutata.

TOTAL RANGE: AK, ME, VT, NJ, NY, MI, OH, WI, MT, WA. Circumboreal; Venezuela.

STATE RANGE: Pre-1980 record from Champaign.

STATE STATUS: 1996 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: Seeps and submergent or emergent in pools in marly and sedge areas in strongly minerotrophic peatlands;

HAZARDS: Drainage of habitat; overgrowth or overshadowing by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect only a small sample of young plants free from limy precipitate.

COMMENTS: Older portion of stem is usually coated with a limy precipitate making it blend in with the substrate. Numerous efforts have been made to recollect this plant at its original locality. Unsuccessful attempts have been made to locate this taxon in other strongly minerotrophic peatlands.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Crum, H.A. and L.E. Anderson. 1981. Mosses of Eastern North America. Volumes 1 & 2. Columbia University Press. NY. 1328 pp.

Ireland, R.R. 1982. Moss Flora of the Maritime Provinces. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Publications in Botany, No. 13. Ottawa, Canada. 738 p.

Vitt, D.H., J.E. Marsh and R.B. Bovey. 1988. Mosses, Lichens and Ferns of Northwest America. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Alberta. 296 p.



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