

SPHAGNUM RIPARIUM Ångstr.
Shore-growing Peat Moss

FAMILY: Sphagnaceae

CHARACTERS: Rather tall plants forming extensive loose carpets. Plants are pale green with a large terminal bud. Branch leaves are large (1.2-3.5 mm) long, recurved at tips when dry and concave when moist. Stem leaves are triangular-lingulate (1.3-1.6mm long) with a conspicuous tear down the middle; hyaline cells are divided, e fibrillose.

SIMILAR SPECIES: It resembles and grows with *Sphagnum fallax* but lacks the brownish tinge of that species. Microscopically, its stem leaves might be mistaken for those of *S. girgensohnii*. The large terminal bud and large stem leaves with a conspicuous tear would separate it from other members of the Section *Cuspidata* to which it belongs.

TOTAL RANGE: AK, WA, MN, WI, MI, OH, NY, NH, CN. Circumboreal; scattered throughout Canada from Newfoundland and Labrador west to British Columbia and Yukon; Japan.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 record from Stark, pre-1980 record from Summit.

STATE STATUS: 1986 to present: Endangered.

HABITAT: *S. riparium* forms loose carpets in wet minerotrophic sites such as open bog mats (often near the water's edge), occasionally in roadside ditches.

HAZARDS: Drainage of habitat; invasion of aggressive non-native species such as *Phragmites australis*.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good if water chemistry could be controlled.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect entire plants, including stems and capitula.

COMMENTS: This species has a rather "silky" feel to it in the field. While not growing submerged in water, it is often found in the wettest areas of the bog mat. Unsuccessful attempts have been made to locate this species in similar habitats. This species is rare and scattered throughout its range.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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