

TOMENTYPNUM NITENS (Hedw.) Loeske
Fuzzy Hypnum Moss

FAMILY: Brachytheciaceae

CHARACTERS: Large glossy yellow-green to golden-brown plants (5-15 cm tall) in tufts. Stems erect with conspicuous reddish-brown tomentum nearly throughout. Stem and branch leaves similar, strongly pluriplicate, and 3-4 mm long with a strong costa extending about 3/4 of leaf.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Tomentypnum nitens* is easily recognized by its robust, stiffly erect habit and yellow-brown color with the stem covered with brownish "felt." In the field it might be mistaken with a pale *Brachythecium salebrosum*.

TOTAL RANGE: AK, ME, NH, CN, NJ, PA, OH, MI, WI, WA. Circumboreal.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 record from Portage.

STATE STATUS: 1996-1997: Added, 1998 to present: Endangered

HABITAT: Sedge meadows in weakly and strongly minerotrophic peatlands; associated with *Campylium stellatum* and other "brown mosses."

HAZARDS: Drainage of habitat; frequent fires to control successional growth of shrubs. Over collecting by bryologists.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect only a small amount of plants.

COMMENTS: Unsuccessful attempts have been made to locate this taxon in similar habitats. This plant is generally rare in eastern US.

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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