

TORTELLA INCLINATA (R. Hedw.) Limpr.
Curved Tortella

FAMILY: Pottiaceae

HABIT: Plants densely tufted, yellowish or brown, to 1 cm; sporulating early spring.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Similar to other species of the genus Tortella; distinguished by a combination of moderately contorted leaves (when dry) with short, cucullate tips and an upcurved apex of the capsule.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in N. A. s. to Vermont, Ontario, Michigan and the Yukon.

STATE RANGE: Known from a single collection on Marblehead Peninsula in Ottawa County.

STATE STATUS: 1994 to present: Endangered.

HABITAT: Exposed calcareous habitats; alvars and sandy openings.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by taller woody or herbaceous vegetation.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens; do not press since the contorted leaves are most evident in air-dried specimens.

COMMENTS: This diminutive species is easily overlooked. However, the habitat for curved tortella in Ohio is exceedingly limited. This moss is another element of the rare alvar flora of Marblehead Peninsula where it is associated with Great Lakes endemics such as Lakeside daisy (*Hymenoxys herbacea*) and Garber's sedge (*Carex garberi*). This species is unlikely to occur anywhere else in Ohio. An excellent line drawing is on page 309 in Crum and Anderson (1981).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Crum, H. A. and L. E. Anderson. 1981. Mosses of eastern North America, Vol. I. Columbia Univ. Press, New York. 663 p.



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