WRINKLED SHINGLE LICHEN

Pannaria lurida

SARA STATUS: THREATENED

IDENTIFICATION TIPS:

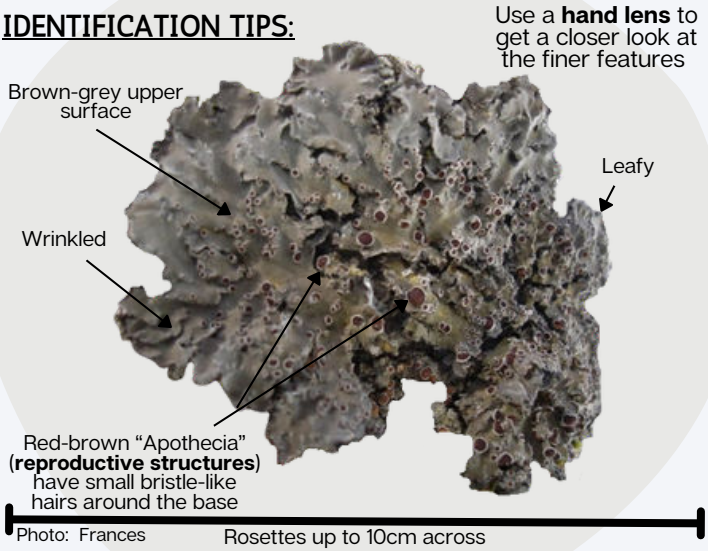

Photo: Frances Anderson

Etymology
"Pannaria" – like felt cloth
"lurida" – pale yellow, ghastly, the color of bruises

DESCRIPTION

Wrinkled Shingle Lichen (*Pannaria lurida*) is a **leafy**, **wrinkled** lichen that is **brown to grey in the upper surface** with **red to brown reproductive structures**, also known as apothecia, which have **small bristle-like hairs** around the base. These lichens can produce rosettes that are **up to 10 centimeters across**.

BIOLOGY

Lichens are composed of of **two symbiotic (interacting) organisms:** the **mycobiont (fungi)** component, which is the structure responsible for reproduction, mineral uptake, and water absorption, and the **photobiont (algae and/or cyanobacteria)** component, which are the structures of the lichen that photosynthesize.

REPRODUCTION

To reproduce successfully, the fungal component of Wrinkled Shingle Lichen produces a fruiting body called apothecia that **releases spores**; these spores need to be released onto the truck of a **mature tree** and encounter the **compatible strain of cyanobacteria**.

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HABITAT & DISTRUBUTION

Within Canada, this lichen predominantly occurs in Nova Scotia, most of which were found growing on Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) close to the edge of treed swamps or floodplains.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

As of 2023, there are only **four known occurrences on PEI**, these occurrences were recorded to be growing on **Red Maple** and **Eastern White Cedar** (*Thuja occidentalis*). However, following surveys have not been able to confirm the presence of the lichen at one of its four know occurrences.

Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Lichens are sensitive to habitat changes and pollution and therefore serve as important environmental quality indicators.

THREATS

Loss of habitat as a result of increased forest harvesting and silviculture, and residential and commercial development and climate change. These lichens typically **only colonize mature trees that have developed a rough bark texture**. For many trees, it can take over 50 years for them to mature to this point. In small provinces, such as PEI much of the forest is privately owned and has been harvested within the last 60 years.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Conserve mature hardwood forests and **forested wetlands.**
- Leave snags and dead trees where they stand.
- Plant trees, shrubs and flowers that are native to PEI.
- Support environmentally conscious companies and conservation groups.
- Report any sightings of Black Ash using:
  - **iNaturalist.org** or;
  - Contacting **Julie-Lynn Zahavich**, the Forest Conservation Specialist for the PEI Fish and Wildlife Division at **jlzahavich@gov.pe.ca**

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Ula eluwasik wejiaq wjit sulewey apoqnmasuti wejiaq:

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