

Lichens in Nova Scotia

OLD UPLAND HARDWOODS

Old growth hardwood forests, a signature forest type in the Acadian Forest Region, provide suitable and long-term habitat for rare or threatened lichen species such as *Anaptychia palmulata*, *Heterodermia* spp., and also *Punctelia appalachensis* and *Degelia plumbea** near the coast.



Photo Courtesy of Alain Belliveau

ARCTIC-ALPINE

This relic suite of rugged habitat types like barrens and rock outcrops remains a stronghold for rare species that typically occur in the Arctic or in Alpine situations. Rare or threatened species like *Nephroma arcticum*, *Cladonia cornuta* ssp. *groenlandica*, and *Cladonia wainioi* find a home here.



Photo Courtesy of Troy McMullin

RAVINES

Ravines offer a cool, relatively humid refuge in areas often devoid of these conditions. They are often too steep for forest harvesting or development and their perennial or seasonal brooks help keep moisture levels high, a requirement of several *Peltigera* species, including the nationally rare *Peltigera hydrothyria* and uncommon species such as *Polychidium muscicola*, *Leptogium dactylinum*, and *Pilophorus cereolus*.

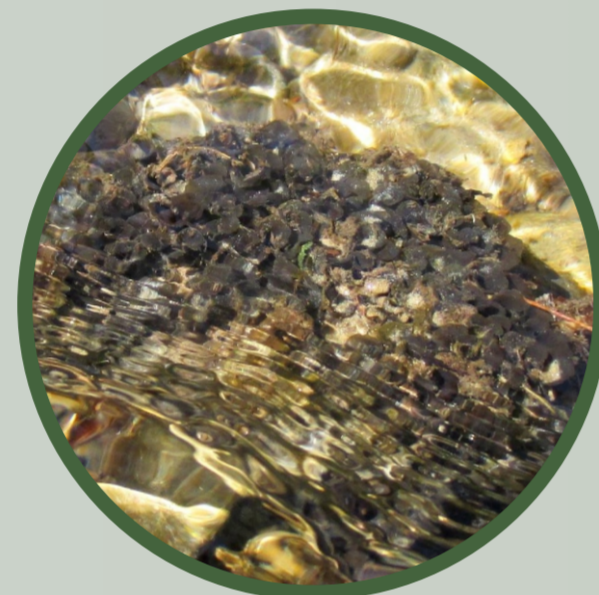


Photo Courtesy of Troy McMullin

RAINFOREST FIR & RED MAPLE

This band of cool, humid habitat near the coast is home to some of world's rarest lichen species including *Erioderma pedicellatum**, *Erioderma mollissimum**, *Degelia plumbea**, *Pannaria lurida**, *Anzia colpodes**, *Fuscopannaria leucosticta**, and many others.



Photo Courtesy of Alain Belliveau

GYPSUM

Even though they are fairly uncommon in the province, Nova Scotia contains northeastern North America's largest and most widespread examples of gypsum ecosystems. Rare or threatened species found in areas with exposed gypsum include *Leptogium lichenoides*, *Leptogium intermedium*, *Solorina saccata*, among many others.



Photo Courtesy of Bernd Haynold

CEDAR SWAMPS

An area of cedar swamp in Digby County is home to one of the rarest cyanolichens in North America: *Leptogium hibernicum*. The nutrient-rich and humid conditions of the swamps provide excellent habitat for other rare or threatened lichens such as *Erioderma mollissimum**, *Degelia plumbea**, *Fuscopannaria leucosticta**, among many others.



Photo Courtesy of Leif & Anita Stridvall (stridvall.se)

COAST

Despite the constant harsh wind, salt spray, and rocky coastlines, white spruce-fir forests and coastal barrens host a wide range of lichen species. Some are found elsewhere, yet have adapted to these extreme conditions, such as *Cladonia rangiferina*. Some are found only here, such as *Lichina confinis*, a rock lichen that grows near the high tide line and *Cavernularia hultenii*, that lives on coastal conifer branches.



Photo Courtesy of Troy McMullin

