

***Tetraphis geniculata* Girg. ex Milde**

Status: State Working List

Rank: G4S1

General Description: *Tetraphis geniculata* forms small green to reddish-brown tufts that become slightly contorted when dry. Leaves are ovate, acute, 1-2 mm long with the costa ending below the apex. Median leaf cells are round to hexagonal, thick-walled, smooth, 8-18µm long.

Tetraphis geniculata is autoicous with the capsule borne on a 7-17 mm long seta that is twisted, geniculate near the middle and papillose above the bend. The capsule is narrowly cylindrical, yellow-brown, 1.5-3.0 mm long with four large peristome teeth. Cup-like structures are commonly produced on the tops of the leafy shoots and contain numerous disc-shaped gemmae.

Identification Tips: *Tetraphis* is a moss genus which has four large teeth. *Tetraphis geniculata* is distinguished from *T. pellucida* (a very common species in our area) on the basis of the papillose, geniculate seta. Gametophytic characteristics for both species are identical, therefore sporophytes must be present before this species can be identified.

Range: In the Pacific Northwest *T. geniculata* is known from Alaska and British Columbia and three locations in Oregon. In Washington this species is known from Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Lewis, Skamania, Skagit and Snohomish counties.

Habitat: This species occurs on the cut or broken ends or lower half of large decay class three, four and five rotten logs or stumps, and occasionally on peaty banks in moist coniferous forests from sea level to subalpine elevations.

State Status Comments: This may be more common throughout western Washington but due to the need for the presence of sporophytes to identify the species it may be under reported.

Inventory Needs: Suitable habitat throughout Washington should continue to be inventoried.

Threats and Management Concerns: *T. geniculata* is considered a Survey and Manage Category A species under the Northwest Forest Plan (USDA/USDI 2001). This classification carries the need to manage known sites and survey prior to habitat disturbing activities on USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management land. The removal and disturbance of large coarse woody debris could eliminate suitable habitat for this species. Although it is not a "target" special forest products species, collection of moss from rotten logs could lead to the incidental removal of this species. In Oregon this species is also listed as S1 (critically imperiled and fewer than five occurrences).

References:

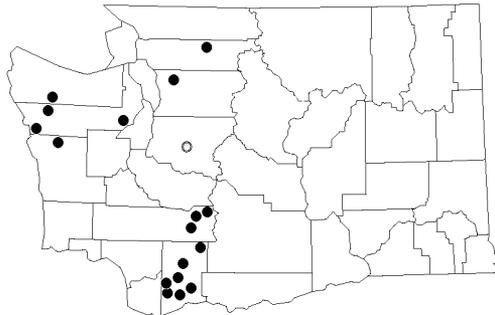
USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. 2001.

Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines. 147 pp. USDA Forest Service, Portland, OR.

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Known distribution of *Tetraphis geniculata* in Washington



● Current (1980+)

○ Historic (older than 1980)

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