

## ***Tetraplodon minioides* (Hedw.) B.S.G.**

**Status:** State Working List

**Rank:** S1G5

**General Description:** *Tetraplodon minioides* forms dense, light green to yellowish-green tufts. Stems are 2-8 cm high, upright and matted with reddish-brown rhizoids. Leaves are slightly contorted when dry, 3-7 mm long, ovate-lanceolate, narrowing to a sharp apex. Sporophytes are common, capsules are 3-5 mm long, cylindric with a broader elongate neck (the area between the base of the urn and the top of the seta), red when young, becoming almost black when older. The seta is bright red, 1.5-6 cm long; peristome teeth are red and reflexed when dry.

**Identification Tips:** The dung or decomposing animal remains substratum is characteristic of this moss family. This species can be distinguished from *Tetraplodon angustatus* by the ovate-lanceolate leaves with entire margins.

**Range:** In the Pacific Northwest this species is known from British Columbia, Alberta, Alaska, Northwest Territory and Oregon. It has been found in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson and King counties in Washington.

**Habitat:** *Tetraplodon minioides* occurs on old dung, animal remains, bones, and sometimes owl pellets.

**State Status Comments:** The rarity of this species is probably due to the unique substratum requirements of this moss family.

**Inventory Needs:** The distribution of this species in Washington is probably inadequately documented because of its unusual substratum requirements.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** This species is also ranked S1 (critically imperiled and fewer than five occurrences) in Oregon.

References:

Crum, H.A., L.E. Anderson. 1981. *Mosses of Eastern North America*, 2 volumes. Columbia University Press. New York. 1328 pp.

Lawton, E., 1971. *Moss Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. The Hattori Botanical Laboratory. Nichinan, Miyazaki, Japan. 362 pp.

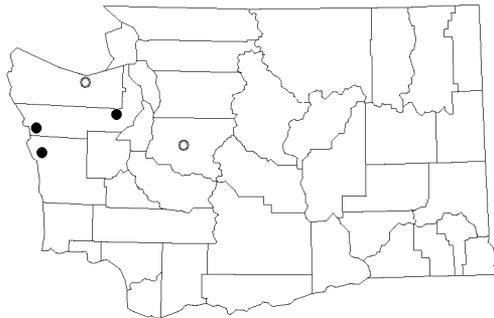
Schofield, W. B. 1992. *Some Common Mosses of British Columbia*. Royal British Columbia Museum Handbook. Victoria. British Columbia. 394 pp.

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### Known distribution of *Tetraplodon minioides* in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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