

## PERFORATE REINDEER LICHEN

*Cladonia perforata* Evans

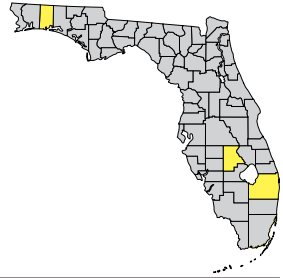
**Synonyms:** none

**Family:** Cladoniaceae (reindeer lichen)

**FNAI Ranks:** G1/S1

**Legal Status:** US—Endangered FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



Ann F. Johnson

**Field Description:** Terrestrial **lichen** in tufts 0.8 - 2.5 inches tall, consisting of densely forking branches. **Branches** up to 0.24 inch wide, hollow, smooth, glossy, pale yellowish-gray, and intricately forked with large, conspicuous **holes** below each branching point.

**Similar Species:** British soldiers lichen (*Cladonia leporina*) often has small holes in its branches, but its branches are rough, dark yellow-green, and usually tipped with red fruiting bodies. *Cladonia* species have finer, narrower branches. *Cladonia uncialis* is smaller and has green patterning, visible with a magnifier, on its branches; *Cladonia pachycladodes* is yellowish-gray but has finer branches drooping at the tips.

**Related Rare Species:** Other rare or endemic lichens in Florida include *Cladonia botryocarpa*, *Cladonia abbreviatula*, *Coccocarpia asterella*, *Ramalina paludosa*, and *Leptogium floridanum*.

## Perforate reindeer lichen

*Cladonia perforata*

**Habitat:** Rosemary scrub on FL Panhandle coasts, Lake Wales Ridge, and Atlantic Coastal Ridge.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Endemic to FL.

**Conservation Status:** Fewer than 30 populations are known, about half on conservation lands. Perforate reindeer lichen populations in the Panhandle were severely impacted by Hurricane Opal in 1995. Privately owned sites are subject to clearing and conversion.

**Protection & Management:** Purchase and protect privately owned populations. Avoid frequent or catastrophic fires; manage scrub fires to create a mosaic of microhabitats. Monitor re-colonization after fire. Limit foot and vehicle traffic in scrub.

**References:** Coile 2000, Evans 1952, Moore 1968, USFWS 1998, Yahr 1997.

