

PERFORATE REINDEER LICHEN

Cladonia perforata Evans

Synonyms: none

Family: Cladoniaceae (reindeer lichen)

FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2S3

Legal Status: US-Endangered; FL-none



Ann F. Johnson

Field Description: Terrestrial **lichen** in tufts 6.0 - 6.5 cm tall, consisting of densely forking branches. **Branches** up to 6 mm 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*.

Habitat: Rosemary scrub on FL Panhandle coast, Lake Wales Ridge, Atlantic Coastal Ridge, and Manatee County.

Best Survey Season: Year-round.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to FL.

Conservation Status: Approximately 32 populations are known, about two-thirds on conservation lands. Several sites have successfully reintroduced this species. Privately owned sites are subject to clearing and conversion.

Protection and Management: Manage scrub fires to create a mosaic of microhabitats. Avoid frequent or catastrophic fires at occupied sites. Limit foot and vehicle traffic in scrub. Transplanted populations have shown great success when thalli are anchored to the substrate (DeBolt 2021). Transplanted fragments should be at least 8 mm long for greatest survivability (Witmer 2014). Control invasive plants, such as *Melinis repens*, in scrub habitat.

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

