

## SPECIES FACT SHEET

**Common Name:** shrubby vinyl

**Scientific Name:** *Leptogium teretiusculum* (Wallr.) Arnold

Division: *Ascomycota*

Class: *Ascomycetes*

Order: *Lecanorales*

Family: *Collemaaceae*

**Technical Description:** **Thallus** gelatinous, tiny, forming minute brownish to brownish-grey cushions or tufts 0.5mm to 2 cm wide, composed of many small brown, cylindrical, knobby isidia that become very branched (coralloid), either attached directly to the substrate or attached to very small foliose lobes that are obscured by the isidia and difficult to see. **Medulla** of isodiametric fungal cells resembling parenchyma (requires a very thin cross-section examined under a compound scope), cells to 2:1. Photosynthetic partner (photosymbiont) the cyanobacterium *Nostoc*. **Isidia** constricted at places along their length, giving a segmented, knobby look, 0.03-0.1 mm in diameter. European specimens of *L. teretiusculum* have an overall gray color with some browning at the tips, with thin knobby isidia that become wider and flatter as they mature, resembling a tiny *Opuntia* cactus, the isidia eventually becoming small foliose lobes with new isidia attached. Some European specimens are flattened, lying parallel to the substrate

**Chemistry:** all spot tests negative.

**Distinctive Characters:** Tiny thalli composed of cylindrical, knobby isidia, the medulla parenchyma-like. **Similar species:** *Leptogium cellulorum* looks very similar but has cylindrical isidia with dimpled tips. Martin et al. (2002) discuss at length the morphological distinctions between *L. teretiusculum* and *L. cellulorum*. Stone and Ruchty (2006) also discuss the distinctions and show photographs. **Other descriptions and illustrations:** Stone & Ruchty (2006); Sierk (1964); McCune & Geiser (2009): 183; Goward et al. (1994): p. 68; Purvis et al. (1992): p.356.

**Life History:** Details for *Leptogium teretiusculum* are not documented. This species presumably is dispersed by fragments of isidia carried by birds, snails, slugs, wind and rain.

**Range, Distribution, and Abundance:** Widely scattered across the northern hemisphere in western Europe and North America. In the Pacific Northwest, known from British Columbia to California.

National Forests: documented on Deschutes, Wallowa-Whitman, and Willamette NFs. Suspected on Mt. Hood, Rogue-River/Siskiyou, and Umpqua NFs. BLM Districts: documented on Medford and Roseburg Districts. Suspected by Coos Bay and Eugene BLM Districts.

**Habitat Associations:** Shaded and humid bark of hardwood trees in riparian areas. In southern Oregon and northern California the substrate is *Quercus* spp. In Idaho, the substrate is riparian *Populus*.

**Threats:** Fire and logging alter shade and moisture regimes in riparian forests favored by *Leptogium teretiusculum* (Stone, pers. obs.).

**Conservation Considerations:** Revisit known localities and monitor the status of populations. Occurrence within existing riparian buffers or other protected land allocations may be adequate to maintain viability and dispersal. The best opportunity for conservation would be on federal land and in state parks.

**Conservation rankings:** Global: G4G5Q; National: NNR; Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center: List 2 (S2).

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### **References:**

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