

SPECIES FACT SHEET

Common Name: fringed pelt, Pacific felt lichen, frog pelt

Scientific Name: *Peltigera pacifica*

Division: Ascomycota

Class: Ascomycetes

Order: Peltigerales

Family: Peltigeraceae

Technical Description: Thallus foliose, with distinct upper surface (cortex). Photosynthetic partner (photobiont) the cyanobacterium *Nostoc*. Thallus up to 10 cm diameter; lobes 0.5 – 1 cm wide with ruffled-looking, mostly upturned margins that are often densely covered with abundant lobules; lobes relatively thin compared to other *Peltigera* species. Upper cortex slightly undulating, smooth, shiny, light bluish grey, sometimes with a brownish tint. Lower side without a cortex, white, with 0.8 – 1.5 mm broad low veins which are pale brown near the margins and darkening in the center. Spaces between the veins remain white. Rhizines slender, 2 – 4 mm long, single or occasionally branching, without tufting or tomentum. Lobules marginal and laminal, sometimes isidioid. Each lobule narrows where attached to the thallus, making it easily separated for dispersal. Lobules often somewhat dissected, giving the thallus a frilled appearance. Apothecia form on the upper side of narrow lobes and become revolute and vertical.

Chemistry: All spot tests negative. Contains tenuiorin, methyl gyrophorate, zeorin, peltidactylin and dolichorrhizin.

Distinctive characters: (1) The generally abundant marginal lobules, (2) narrow lobes and (3) glabrous, often shiny upper surface. It frequently has a disheveled appearance, with a partially discolored upper surface and margins partially consumed by herbivores (McCune and Geiser 1997). **Similar species:** *Peltigera elisabethae* has a smooth upper surface and lobules but (1) the veins are wide and indistinct, and (2) the outer rhizines are in concentric rows. *Peltigera praetextata* has marginal lobules but (1) has a tomentose upper surface, at least at lobe tips, and (2) rhizines often have minute erect tomentum. *Peltigera membranacea* is thin and light grey but (1) has no lobules and (2) the upper surface is tomentose, at least at the tips.

other descriptions and illustrations: Vitikainen 1985, McCune & Geiser 1997:215, Goward et al. 1994:101, 105, Goward et al. 1995:108, Brodo et al. 2001:517.

Life History: Details for *Peltigera* are not documented. *Peltigera pacifica* likely disperses by lobules most commonly. Since lobules are relatively heavy, they must be spread by rain, waterflow, and animal vectors. This species is often found near creeks, so high water levels could aid dispersal in winter months. Apothecia are not rare, so spores could account for dispersal over longer distances.

Range, Distribution, and Abundance: *Peltigera pacifica* is found from coastal Alaska to Oregon, rarely inland to northern Idaho. Most collections have been in Oregon, but it appears to be widespread in the Olympic Mountains in Washington, and is found less commonly along the western Cascades in Washington.

National Forests: documented from the Olympic, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Gifford Pinchot, Mt. Hood, Willamette, Siuslaw, Umpqua and Rogue-Siskiyou Forests, and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Suspected from Okanogan-Wenatchee, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman, National Forests. BLM Districts: documented on Salem. Suspected from Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, and Medford districts.

Habitat: *Peltigera pacifica* grows on soil, moss, rocks, logs, and tree bases in moist forests from low elevations to about 2200 feet. At higher elevations, it is often found in creek draws and on forested lake shores.

Threats: Narrowing of riparian buffers may be the strongest threat to *Peltigera pacifica*. At higher elevations, consider larger management areas around forested creek banks to maintain the high humidity throughout the year that appears to be required by this species.

Conservation Considerations: It is found only in the Pacific Northwest.

Conservation Rankings: Global: G3 National: N2N3 Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center: not listed.

Preparer: Daphne Stone

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References

Links are provided below to guide you to additional information that be helpful in understanding this species. Included are links to illustrations, photographs, maps and ranking information used to determine threats and status by State Heritage Programs.

Brodo, I. M., S. D. Sharnoff and S. Sharnoff. 2001. Lichens of North America. Yale University Press, New Haven and London. 795 pp.

Goward, T., B. McCune, & D. Meidinger. 1994. The Lichens of British Columbia, Illustrated Keys. Part 1, Foliose and Squamulose species. British Columbia Ministry of Forests. 181 pp.

Goward, T., B. Goffinet & O. Vitikainen. 1995. Synopsis of the genus *Peltigera* (lichenized *Ascomycetes*) in British Columbia, with a key to the North American species. Can. J. Bot. 73: 91-111.

McCune, B. & L. Geiser. 1997. Macrolichens of the Pacific Northwest. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis. 386 pp.

Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center. 2004. Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, Oregon State University. Portland. Accessed December 30 2007. http://oregonstate.edu/ornhic/survey_manage_ranks.html

Vitikainen, O. 1985. Three new species of *Peltigera* (lichenized *Ascomycetes*). *Ann. Bot. Fenn.* 22: 291-298.