

Response Statement - Spoon-leaved Moss

January 13, 2019

Common Name: Spoon-leaved Moss

Scientific Name: *Bryoandersonia illecebra*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Threatened

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: On 2018-10-15 the Minister of the Environment received the COSEWIC reassessment of the Spoon-leaved Moss, which is currently on Schedule 1 as Endangered and concluded its status has changed to Threatened. Within 24 months of this date, the Minister will seek to obtain a Governor in Council decision on whether to amend the List for this species. A summary of the consultations and an analysis of why the regulation is appropriate will be provided. During the normal consultation period the Minister of Environment will consult with the government of Ontario, Aboriginal peoples, stakeholders, and the public on whether or not the Spoon-leaved Moss should have its Schedule 1 status of Endangered changed to Threatened.

Once a species has been assessed by COSEWIC, further steps must be undertaken before it is added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. For more information on this process, please view [The Species Listing Process Under SARA](#).

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This large, long-lived, profusely branching moss is known in Canada only from southern Ontario, where most locations fall within the highly fragmented Carolinian zone. Potential threats include pollution, recreational activities, forestry, and residential and commercial development. Although it is more abundant within this restricted ecological zone than it was thought to be when first assessed by COSEWIC, it is still uncommon, and its absence from large areas of apparently suitable habitat suggests limitation by additional threats or natural factors. When present, the number of colonies is typically low even with intensive search effort. While the presence of this species in recently created habitats shows that dispersal is possible, the means by which it is achieved is not certain. Only female plants have been recorded in Canada and sporophytes have never been observed.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Province(s) and territory (territories) to be consulted:

Ontario

Other applicable legislation: When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation.

Conservation activities underway: The Recovery Strategy for the Spoon-leaved Moss (*Bryoandersonia illecebra*) in Canada is published as final on the Species at Risk Registry. The Spoon-leaved Moss is also included in the Multi-species Action Plan for Point Pelee National Park of Canada and Niagara National Historic Sites of Canada that is also published as final on the Species at Risk Public Registry.