**Flavoparmelia caperata**, Common Green Shield

Assessment by: Allen, J., Beeching, S., Bishop, G., Dal Forno, M., Hodges, M., Lendemer, J., McMullin, T., Paquette, H. & Yahr, R.

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Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fungi</td>
<td>Ascomycota</td>
<td>Lecanoromycetes</td>
<td>Lecanorales</td>
<td>Parmeliaceae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scientific Name:** *Flavoparmelia caperata* (L.) Hale

**Synonym(s):**
- *Lichen caperatus* L.
- *Parmelia caperata* (L.) Acharius
- *Pseudoparmelia caperata* (L.) Hale

**Common Name(s):**
- English: Common Green Shield, 40-mile Per Hour Lichen

**Taxonomic Source(s):**

**Assessment Information**

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Least Concern ver 3.1

**Year Published:** 2020

**Date Assessed:** August 20, 2020

**Justification:**
*Flavoparmelia caperata* is common and abundant in temperate regions worldwide and does not qualify for any threat categories. It is, therefore, listed as Least Concern.

**Geographic Range**

**Range Description:**
*Flavoparmelia caperata* occurs in temperate forests worldwide.

**Country Occurrence:**

**Native, Extant (resident):** Andorra; Argentina; Australia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Brazil; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Croatia; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; India; Iran, Islamic Republic of; Ireland; Italy; Japan; Korea, Democratic People’s Republic of; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Mexico; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Puerto Rico; Russian Federation; South Africa; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Taiwan, Province of China; Turkey; United Kingdom; United States; Uruguay; Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
Distribution Map

Legend

EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:
IUCN 2020
Population

*Flavoparmelia caperata* is commonly observed in disturbed forests and urban areas, and in some areas of its range the population size of *F. caperata* is suggested to be increasing due to climate change (Sochting 2004, Ellis *et al.* 2014), and increased urbanisation world-wide. It is disturbance and moderately (nitrogen) pollution tolerant (Seed *et al.* 2013), and is abundant and frequent in many different habitats that experience substantial anthropogenic alteration, possibly linked to increased growth in high light situations (Ellis 2019).

**Current Population Trend:** Increasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

*Flavoparmelia caperata* is a bark dwelling species of numerous different trees and shrubs in temperate forests. It rarely also occurs on rocks, a phenomenon that is reportedly more common at the northern part of its range (Hale 1976). It can be found in forested and exposed environments, from sea level to over 3400 m elevation. *F. caperata* has been used as hummingbird nest material (McCormac and Showman 2009–2010).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

Use and Trade

While *Flavoparmelia caperata* is not widely utilized by humans, its secondary metabolites do show antibacterial activity (Aydin and Kinalioglu 2013, Dieu *et al.* 2019). It also shows potential utility for monitoring both indoor and outdoor air pollution (Will-Wolf *et al.* 2015, Canha *et al.* 2019), and for monitoring radiocaesium levels after nuclear fallout (Dohi *et al.* 2015).

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Severe air pollution is a threat to this species. Compared to many lichens *Flavoparmelia caperata* is relatively pollution tolerant (Will-Wolf *et al.* 2017), though it does show signs of pollution stress in urban and suburban areas (Ali Ahmed *et al.* 2014).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

*Flavoparmelia caperata* occurs incidentally in some protected areas. The species would benefit from broader awareness and training on the impacts of urbanisation and air pollution on lichens. Long term studies of population and habitat trends are needed to better understand air quality and climate change impacts.

Credits

**Assessor(s):** Allen, J., Beeching, S., Bishop, G., Dal Forno, M., Hodges, M., Lendemer, J., McMullin, T., Paquette, H. & Yahr, R.

**Reviewer(s):** Rosentreter, R.

**Facilitator(s) and Compiler(s):** Bishop, G. & Allen, J.

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Bibliography


Citation

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External Resources
For Supplementary Material, and for Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website.
Appendix

Habitats
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.4. Forest - Temperate</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plant Growth Forms
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Growth Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E. Epiphyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Fungus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC. Lichen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use and Trade
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End Use</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other (free text)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine - human &amp; veterinary</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Threats
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. Pollution -&gt; 9.5. Air-borne pollutants -&gt; 9.5.3. Ozone</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stresses: 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality

Conservation Actions in Place
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Action in Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-place land/water protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conservation Actions Needed
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Action Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Education &amp; awareness -&gt; 4.3. Awareness &amp; communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Needed
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.2. Population size, distribution &amp; trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.5. Threats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Data Fields

**Distribution**
- Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): No
- Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
- Continuing decline in number of locations: No
- Lower elevation limit (m): 0
- Upper elevation limit (m): 3,400

**Population**
- Extreme fluctuations: No
- Population severely fragmented: No
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