

Porsild's bryum

(*Mielichhoferia macrocarpa* = *Bryum porsildii*)

- Porsild's bryum is a small moss restricted to calcareous cliffs that are frequently wet.
- It has branched stems < 1 cm in height and forms dense, bright green colonies with a "spongy texture".
- Female moss produce reproductive structures called sporophytes.
- The cold, damp, calcareous cliffs that support Porsild's bryum are rare in eastern Canada.



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Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Within the Province, Porsild's bryum occupies a small range at the northernmost tip of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, where it is found associated with cliffs along the coast from Cape Onion to Noddy Bay. The species requires habitat that is kept damp or wet from seepage or splash and that becomes dry with the onset of winter freezing.

Population Trends

There are an estimated several hundred colonies of Porsild's bryum at six sites. In recent years ice scouring and rock falls have reduced the number of colonies at one site from 200 to nine. There is no data available to establish long-term population trends.

Limiting Factors and Threats

This rare moss is limited by the amount of suitable habitat, as well as its ability to disperse to new areas. Any natural or human caused rockslides on the cliffs on which Porsild's bryum grows could threaten species survival.

Special Significance

Porsild's bryum likely survived the last glaciation in refugia and has become adapted to habitats that are now fragmented.

You can help protect Porsild's bryum:

- Support stewardship activities in your area.
- Learn something new about a species at risk and tell a friend!
- Don't climb on cliffs in the Porsild's bryum area.

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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