

River Jelly Lichen © John Douglass

Working with Wildlife

River Jelly Lichen (*Collema dichotomum*) Species Action Plan

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Latest version	November 2009

Description

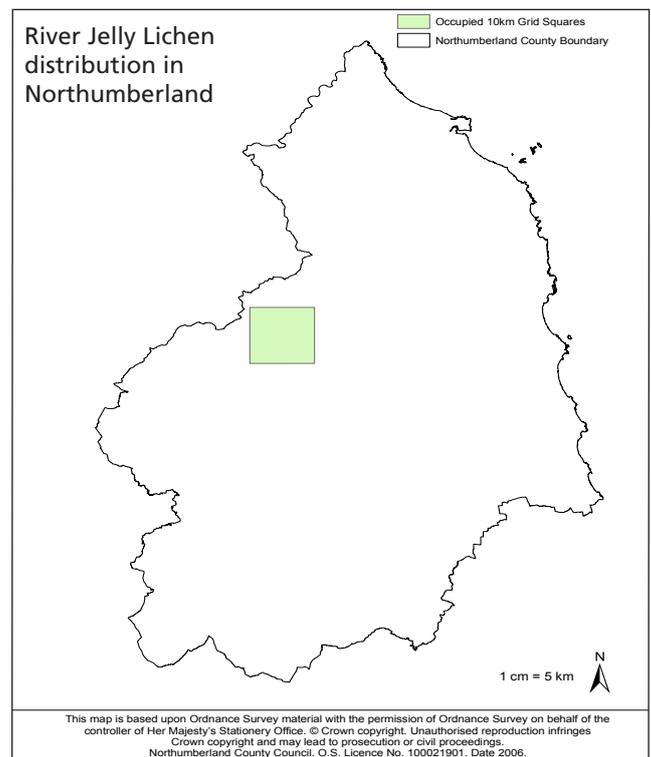
This aquatic lichen grows on submerged rocks and boulders in fast-flowing intermediate and upland streams. It is a small (1-2cm) finger-lobed lichen that has a rubbery consistency and is green-brown in colour. It usually occurs in well-lit, open sites but it can also tolerate light shading. The maximum depth at which it grows is 80 centimetres below summer water levels and it is only found in streams with a high water quality.

Conservation Status

IUCN Red Data List, vulnerable
Great Britain lichens red data list 1996, vulnerable
UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species
Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 8
North East Biodiversity Action Plan Species

Current Extent in Northumberland

River jelly lichen is found in the upper reaches of the River Coquet in Northumberland. In the UK it is rare and has been declining since 1960; now known only from eleven 10 km squares in mid-Wales, northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Its distribution also extends into northern Europe and Russia.



Current Factors Causing Loss or Decline

- Nutrient enrichment – sewage discharges, runoff of agricultural fertilisers or the clear fell of forests leading to the stimulation of algae dominated communities that might out compete jelly lichen
- Increased silt loads in rivers and streams
- Growth of riverside trees causing shading out
- Changes to river water quality, particularly any reduction in the base status of the water
- Mechanical alteration to the bed of the river by re-profiling to reduce flood risk, create fish holding pools or construction of fishing platforms

Associated Action Plans

- Rivers and Streams

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Further Information

This river jelly lichen action plan links to the river jelly lichen UK BAP action plan, whose lead partner is the Environment Agency.

Targets

Maintain the current range of the River Jelly Lichen in Northumberland of 1 ten kilometre square by 2015

Code	Priority Actions	Date
RJLA01	Monitor the population of river jelly lichen	ongoing
RJLA02	Continue liaison with landowners and managers to highlight the importance and requirements of river jelly lichen following the campaign of targeted farm visits.	2008