

SPHAGNUM BARTLETTIANUM Warnst.
Bartlett's Peat Moss

FAMILY: Sphagnaceae

CHARACTERS: Small rather delicate plants, mostly tinged with red, to pink-red to red-mottled, but sometimes light green. Branches short, slender, curved downward; branch leaves small, loosely inserted. Microscopically, green cells triangular to trapezoidal in section, with broadest exposure on the inner surface. Stem leaves rather long and narrow, oblong-triangular to oblong, with hyaline cells normally fibrillose throughout

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Sphagnum capillifolium* is a small delicate red-tinged plant with stem leaves similarly shaped to those of *S. bartlettianum*, but those of *S. bartlettianum* are longer. The branch leaves of *S. bartlettianum* are often 5-ranked (especially when moist) with slender tips spreading when dry whereas the branch leaves of *S. capillifolium* are not particularly ranked or spreading. *Sphagnum magellanicum* is red, but the plants are much larger.

TOTAL RANGE: Coastal from the Florida panhandle to New England, very rare inland in NY, NC and OH.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 record from Adams County.

STATE STATUS: 1996-1997: Added; 1998 to present: Endangered

HABITAT: On sandy and peaty soils in shrubby bogs, and hummock bases in swampy areas.

HAZARDS: Drainage of habitat; overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect only small samples of plants, including stems and capitula. Note the color of fresh material.

COMMENTS: The Ohio population is from a mixed *Sphagnum* mat in a seepy area on a hillside. During 1998 and 1999 many unsuccessful attempts were made to recollect this species.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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