

Hazel Gloves (*Hypocreopsis rhododendri*)

Areas and status: Restricted to a few areas in Britain and Ireland with hyper-oceanic (Atlantic) climate. The Irish stronghold is in The Burren; in Scotland it is found at a few west coast sites including islands such as Mull and Skye; in Wales there is a single record from Carmarthen and in England there is a Cornish stronghold with a few records from Devon and Somerset.

Woodland type: Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Scrub

Preferred habitat niches: Atlantic hazelwood, small streamside woodlands, hedgerows and spinneys. The fruit bodies are microscopic and submerged within an orange-brown, lichen-like, 'many-fingered' stroma (the 'Gloves'). These are usually seen 'clasping' dead attached branches in neglected hazel woods. Recently confirmed to be parasitic on a fairly widespread wood-inhabiting fungus, Glue Crust *Hymenochaete corrugata*. Attached deadwood is an important niche provided it is a) closely spaced b) in relatively humid conditions c) already occupied by Glue Crust.

Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Loss of hazel woodland, blackthorn scrub and associated climbing plants (wild roses, honeysuckle) in suitable geographic areas
- Reinstating coppice cycles in areas of hazel occupied by Hazel Gloves
- Removal and destruction of wood supporting stromata of Hazel Gloves
- Overgrazing of occupied woodlands by livestock or deer
- Shading-out of shrubs supporting Hazel Gloves or other successional change



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Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Avoid change of use for long-established strongholds of Hazel Gloves	Strongholds needed to safeguard spore dispersal for natural establishment at new sites. Requirement for more survey work for Hazel Gloves within range of fungus if suitable habitat threatened by change of use.
Exclude shrubs with Hazel Gloves from coppice reinstatement regimes	Survey for Hazel Gloves and take into account in coppicing plans. Do not start hazel coppicing within distribution range of Hazel Gloves where hazel was previously unmanaged. Ensure continuity of suitable habitat.
Selective felling	Use to control competition in rare cases where Hazel and Blackthorn with Hazel Gloves are being shaded out.
Grazing	Temporarily fence woodland where Hazel Gloves occurs and at potential new sites if grazing threatens regeneration of Hazel and thorns likely to be occupied by Glue Crust
Deadwood	Retain attached hazel and thorny deadwood within occupied sites to maintain the host fungus Glue Crust