

Name:**Bearded tooth/Hedgehog fungus***Hericium erinaceum***UK status:**

[UK BAP Priority](#). Vulnerable (Red Data List, ed.1); Annex (Red Data List, ed.2). 36 post-1960 hectad records in FRDBI

London status:

Rare

Protected status:

- W&CA, Schedule 8 (S.13a*)
'Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England' (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs:

Woodland; Open landscapes with ancient trees

Citation:

Hedgehog fungus grows mainly on wounds of old living trees and the ends of felled trunks. It is normally seen high up on the host tree, which is usually beech (occasionally oak or hornbeam). Fruiting bodies appear in late summer to autumn. An extremely local species in the UK, hedgehog fungus is restricted to woodland and old parkland with a continuous presence of mature trees. Past harvesting may have contributed to the current scarcity of this prized edible species, which originally prompted its legal protection. However, it can now be successfully cultivated for sale in restaurants. This rare fungus has a UK stronghold in Greater London's Epping Forest (LB Redbridge/Waltham Forest).

**Conservation priorities:**

- Ensure continued favourable management of known sites, ensuring long-term continuity of suitable host trees
- Consider translocations to suitable host trees in appropriate situations
- Monitor populations and habitat quality in known sites for this species
- Enforcement of legal protection, especially in relation to collection of fruiting bodies
- Protect any new sites emerging from further surveys
[All address UK SAP target **T1**]

References:

Evans S, Henrici, A & Ing, B. 2006. *Preliminary Assessment the Red Data List of Threatened British Fungi*. BMS(JNCC)

[Fungal Records Database of Britain & Ireland website](#)

Ing, B. 1992. *A provisional Red Data List of British fungi*. *The Mycologist* 6(3): 124-128.

Legon NW & Henrici A, 2005. Checklist of the British and Irish Basidiomycota. RBG, Kew.

*additionally protected from intentionally picking (which includes collecting seed); trade and possession for the purpose of trade (including all derivatives)

London Biodiversity Action Plan - Priority Species

© Greater London Authority/London Biodiversity Partnership 2007