



B.C. Conservation Data Centre – Spring Update 2016

Celebrating 25 years of providing information
about species and ecological communities in B.C.!

2016 Taxonomy, Classification and Rank Updates

As part of standard business, the BC Conservation Data Centre annually releases updates to Conservation Status Ranks of selected species and ecological communities, additions of new species and ecological communities in B.C. and changes in species taxonomy and ecological community classification.

The 2016 CDC changes to taxonomy and Provincial Conservation Status Ranks for species and changes in classification and Provincial Conservation Status Ranks for ecological communities are now available through [BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#) (BCSEE). BCSEE is the provincial standard (Resource Inventory Standards Committee - RISC) for scientific names, English names and species codes (RISC codes) for animals (vertebrates and invertebrates).

Details of the 2016 taxonomic, classification, and rank changes can be found on the Endangered Species and Ecosystems Changes web page under the heading: 2015/16 Changes.
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/changes.htm>.

Archive files of previous year's taxonomic, classification, and rank updates are available for download from our archive web page: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/archive.html>

The following is a brief summary of this year's changes:

Animal Data

This year the CDC reviewed and updated provincial status ranks for 100 terrestrial molluscs that had been assessed via the Federal General Status program (Forsyth 2014). The last assessment of the terrestrial molluscs occurred before the NatureServe rank calculator was implemented.

Terrestrial Molluscs

- Status ranks changed for 29 species.
- Twenty-one of the 29 status rank changes were due to reassessment of the original information using the current ranking methodology (rank and/or threats calculators).
- Six new species were added to the provincial list
- Several species became less at risk because information from recent inventories resulted in range extensions and additional element occurrences.

Other Taxonomic Groups

- Most of the changes were taxonomy updates.
- The number of established exotic fish increased.
- There were a few new accidental bird species reported in B.C.
- Fourteen species' ranks changed due to a documented increasing trend in either abundance or range extent.

Plant Data

Vascular Plants

- There were 53 vascular plants added to the BC Flora list this year, including 19 Exotic species. Some additions were the result of new collections, while others were the result of re-identification of herbarium specimens. There were 11 new taxa resulting from taxonomic splits (reported on the "New and Deleted" and the "Taxonomic and Name Changes" tabs in the downloadable Excel file on the [changes page](#)).
- There were 8 taxa removed from the BC Flora mostly due to misidentifications and new taxonomical treatments.
- Scientific names of 102 plant species were changed. In addition to the taxonomic splits mentioned above, 30 varieties and subspecies were lumped, including several *Potentilla* species which have undergone revisions to species circumscriptions and names as a result of molecular phylogenetic studies and a recent continental assessment of the genus.
- Provincial conservation status ranks were reviewed for 51 taxa and adjusted for a total of 45 taxa.

Ecological Community Data

- One ecological community was removed from the list due to insufficient data
- Community Summary reports:
 - One ecological community had revisions to the Biogeoclimatic (BGC) distribution based on element occurrences
 - Non-BGC distribution data (Forest District, Ecosection, MOE Region, Regional District and Municipality) was revised for 617 ecological communities, to be consistent with the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) Map Version 9
- Conservation Status reports:
 - Improvement to the reports! Range Extent Estimate is now displayed in its own field (when the value exists in the data) instead of in the Range Extent Comments.
 - Range Extent Estimates were re-calculated and Range Extent Comments revised for 617 ecological communities, to be consistent with BEC Map Version 9
- Conservation Status Ranks:
 - Provincial Conservation Status Ranks were reviewed for 23 existing ecological communities. New data were available and included in all assessments and current status ranking criteria were used for the first time for 20 of the 23 ecosystems. Of these, status ranks changed for 15 ecological communities and remained unchanged for 8 others. Of those that changed:
 - 10 are now less at risk
 - 3 are more at risk
 - 2 have higher uncertainty
 - BC List Status (Red/Blue/Yellow) changed for 10 ecological communities
- Names of four ecological communities were changed to be consistent with botanical taxonomic and name updates, and classification

- Element occurrence mapping: 626 element occurrences were published for 31 ecological communities

Details of the 2016 taxonomy, classification and rank changes can be found at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/changes.htm>.

Coming Soon!!

Look for our next announcement that will direct you to our updated website!

Please make use of our web tools to access information on species and ecosystems at risk

[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer](#) - Through this application you can generate lists of provincial species and ecological communities; conduct searches based on a number of criteria options, including conservation or legal status, and spatial distribution; print your results, or download them to Excel; and access related reports and documents.

[CDC iMap](#) - Use our customised iMap to view mapped known locations (element occurrences or EOs) of species and ecosystems at risk and print element occurrence records.

[DataBC](#) - Download shapefiles of CDC mapped occurrences through the Data Distribution Service. Search for "CDC".

[Species and Ecosystems Information Portal](#) - This site guides you to search for or submit information relating to B.C.'s animals, plants and ecosystems.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.



British Columbia Conservation Data Centre

Ministry of Environment

Phone: (250) 356-0928; Fax: (250) 387-6494

Email: cdcdata@gov.bc.ca CDC web: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cdc/index.html>