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Umbilicaria hirsuta (lichenized Ascomycetes) new to Oregon

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Abstract. The lichenized fungus *Umbilicaria hirsuta* is apparently very rare in western North America, with only a few widely distributed records. Here we report it from Oregon for the first time. A brief description of the species and location is given.

Key words: *Umbilicaria hirsuta*, lichens, Oregon, Siskiyou Mountains, western North America.

The lichenized, umbilicate fungus *Umbilicaria hirsuta* (Sw. ex Westr.) Hoffm. is reported for the first time for the state of Oregon. The moderate sized thalli have a light gray brown upper surface with a rough texture and recurved margins (Fig.

1). The lower surface is pale to dark and rhizinate (Figs. 2, 4, 5). This is the only sorediate species of *Umbilicaria* in North America (Brodo et al. 2001). The soredia develop from the disintegration of the upper cortex close to the

recurved margins and are sometimes sparse and inconspicuous (Fig. 3). For a complete description see Llano (1950).

The population of perhaps several hundred individuals was found on a single rock outcrop in southwest Oregon at the northern extent of the Siskiyou Mountains. The Bureau of Land Management (B.L.M.) designates the area as “matrix,” meaning that it falls within the land managed for timber production and other multiple uses. The outcrop is of noncalcareous, igneous rock, occupying an opening in the surrounding mixed broadleaf and coniferous forest. Associated vegetation includes *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco, *Quercus kelloggii* Newberry, *Pinus lambertiana* Dougl., *Arctostaphylos viscida* Parry, and *Lewisia cotyledon* (S. Wats.) B.L. Robins. *Umbilicaria hirsuta* occurs on vertical faces of the outcrop receiving filtered light under a 50% canopy cover. The outcrop is on an 85% slope at 290° just below a ridge crest at 946 m in elevation. On one rock face many of the thalli are narrowly and vertically distributed below an intermittent seep. Associated species include *U. polyphylla* (L.) Baumg. and *U. phaea* Tuck. among other lichens and bryophytes.

Throughout western North America *U. hirsuta* has been reported from AK, CA, CO, MT, and WA (Llano 1950; Ryan 1994). Despite being in as many western states as it is *U. hirsuta* seems to be sporadic and apparently rare throughout its range (Brodo et al. 2001; Hale and Cole 1989; McCune and Geiser 1997; McCune and Goward 1995). With the recent discovery of the Oregon population it is hoped that *U. hirsuta* will be sought after more deliberately throughout the west. It is a species that can easily be identified in the field. A good search image is a pale brownish

gray thallus (more like a *Dermatocarpon* in color) and a different habitat from the common brown *Umbilicaria* species (partly sheltered sites, rather than the fully exposed outcrops where other *Umbilicaria* species are more likely to occur).

Specimen: U.S.A., Oregon, Jackson Co., west Butte Falls Resource Area, Evans Creek watershed, 946 m, T35S R3W S17, UTM zone 10, 0493862 E, 470812 N, NAD 27 Kofranek 2097 (OSC) May 30, 2006.

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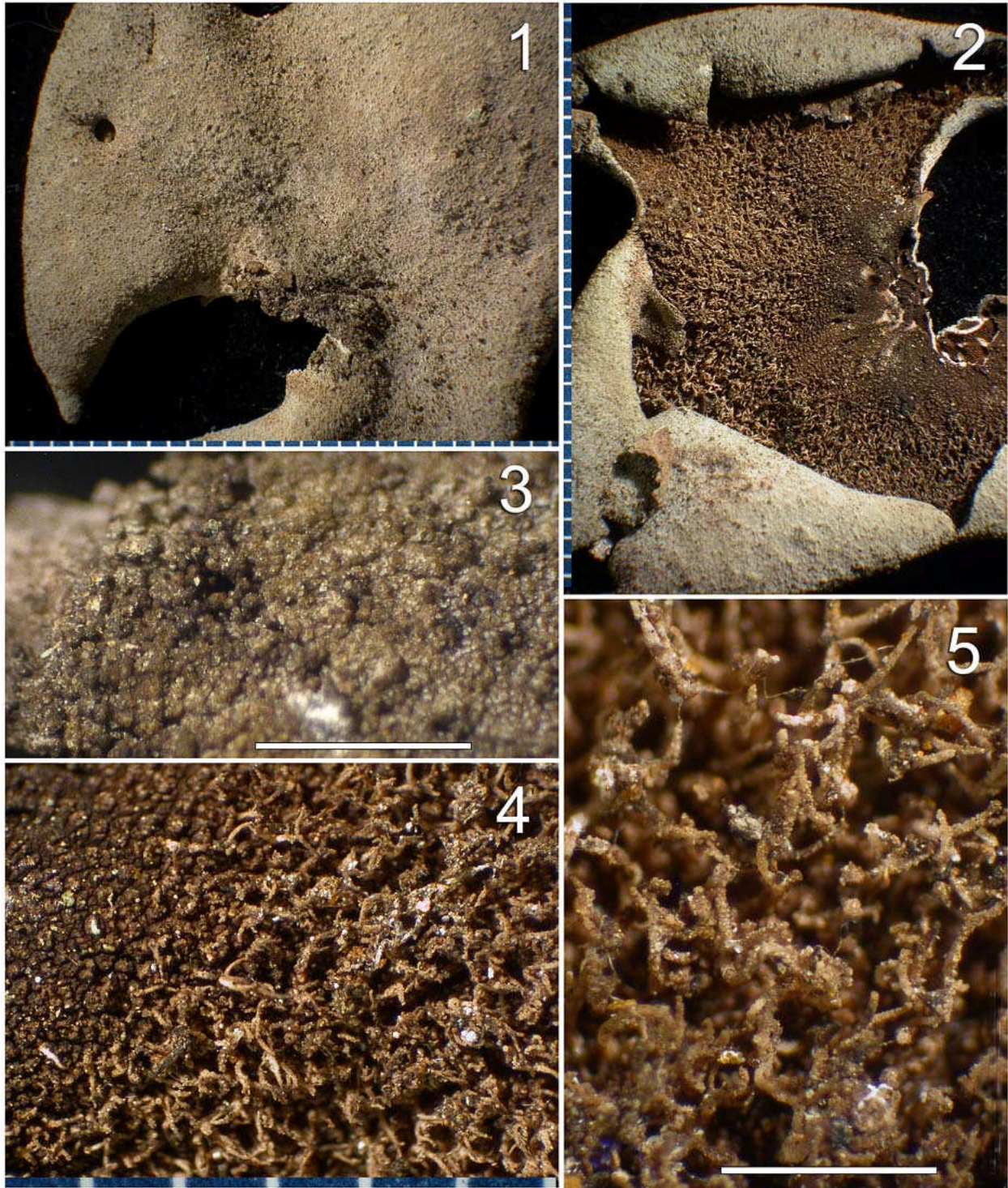
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Figures 1-6. *Umbilicaria hirsuta* from southwestern Oregon. Fig. 1. Upper surface. Fig. 2. Lower surface. Fig. 3. Close up of granular soredia. Fig. 4. Lower surface with rhizines. Fig. 5. Close up of rhizines. The blue ruler has 1 mm increments; scale bars are 1 mm.