

## Red-listed species in forests & old-growth forest indicator species

Finnish Nature League / Olli Manninen & Juho Kytömäki 26.8.05

## Red-listed species?

- What are red-listed species?
- Why are they red-listed?
- Why forest species become endangered?



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## Red-listed species in Finland

- In Finland there are about 20 000 forest inhabiting animal, plant and fungus species
- For about 7000 of them there is an evaluation made
- Almost 1000 of them are at the moment classified red-listed

## Red-listed species in Finland

- Regionally extinct forest inhabiting species 62 (33,3 % of all extinct species)
- Endangered forest species (CR, EN and VU) 564 (37,5 % of all)
  - Vertebrates 12
  - Non-vertebrates 252
  - Vascular plants 35
  - Cryptogams (spore-bearing plants) 15
  - Fungi 250
- Near threatened forest inhabiting species 416 (39,2 % of all)

## Red-listed species in Finland

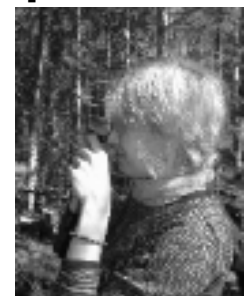
- The situation is getting worse if dramatic increase in forest protection is not carried out
- Extinction debt of about 1000 species in Finland = one thousand species are likely to go extinct in the future if major changes don't happen



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## How to recognize red-listed species and OGF indicator species?

- The more you know about common species, the easier it is to recognize rarer species
- It's important to know what and where to look for
- Most of the species live on dead trees or need the food they provide: wood inhabiting fungi, insects, lichens, mosses, birds



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## OGF indicator species

- Species that can only survive in an OGF or prefer it
- Used for estimating the history and protection value of forests
- List of OGF indicators made of: polypores, lichens, mosses, birds, beetles



## Polypores rock!

- In Finland (and Sweden too) polypores and other wood inhabiting fungi are the best OGF indicators and the most useful group of species for forest protection
- Easy to learn, many endangered species and OGF species, protection requires FOREST protection, don't fly away, are beautiful...
- There is also a useful ranking system based on polypores that tells roughly the protection value of a forest

## Other species groups

- **Lichens:** endangered species mainly on dead or (big) alive trees
- **Mosses:** endangered and OGF indicator species mostly on wood



## Other species groups

- **Vascular plants:** not very many endangered species in a "normal" boreal forest. In herb-rich forests, near springs or streams more rare species. Also protecting the species doesn't normally require forest protection. A few indicator species fo OGF:
  - Ghost orchid (*Epipogium aphyllum*)
  - *Listera cordata*
  - *Moneses uniflora*
  - *Goodyera repens*



## Other species groups

- **Birds:** some part of birds need dead wood for food and accomodation and/or old-growth forests in general. Examples:
  - Three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)
  - White-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*)
  - Siberian Jay (*Perisoreus infaustus*)
  - Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*)
- **Mammals:** many of them live in forests but they are not usually OGF species (Flying squirrel, *Pteromys volans*, is the only useful one in Finland)

## Other species groups

- **Insects:** especially beetles are a very good species group to indicate OGF, but they are quite hard to see (and know) within a normal inventory trip

