

## **Bursting the stubble bubble: citizen scientists measure ecological continuity near Goldsmith Lake, Nova Scotia using calicioid lichens and fungi**

**Ashlea Viola**, Nina Newington, Jonathan Riley, Steven Selva<sup>1</sup>, Lisa Proulx

<sup>1</sup>*Professor Emeritus of Biology & Environmental Studies, University of Maine, Fort Kent, ME*

In an effort to protect a forest on provincial land near Goldsmith Lake in Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, from timber harvest operations, a group of citizen scientists began documenting the biodiversity of the area. In December 2022, the group invited Dr. Steven Selva, a lichenologist specializing in calicioid lichens and fungi, to visit and teach them how to locate and collect calicioid specimens. We found 27 calicioid species, one of which was new to the Maritimes, providing additional evidence that the forest is rich in biodiversity and that the areas recognized as old-growth were larger than the provincial government had previously realized.

Keywords: conservation, *calicium*, *chaenotheca*, *sclerophora*, *sphaerophorus*