



ATLANTIC  
COASTAL  
PLAIN  
FLORA

# Forked Bluecurls

*Trichostema dichotomum*



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## Species Description

Forked Bluecurls is a small annual plant with distinctive blue-purple flowers. The lowest of five petals is white with purple/blue spots. The flower's four stamens and its style (reproductive organs) are notably long and curled. Each node along the stem supports two simple leaves.

## STATUS

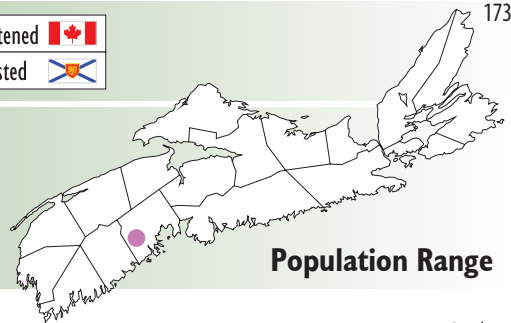
Threatened



Not listed



Found only in one bedrock barren in southwestern Nova Scotia.



## Population Range

## Habitat

It occurs in a single open sandstone bedrock barren (<0.5 hectare in size) in Nova Scotia where pockets of shallow, nutrient-poor, dry soils are found. The surrounding forest habitat is dominated by pines.



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Found in sparsely vegetated rock barrens. Look for flowers between late July and early September.





## Interesting Points

- One plant can range in size from having less than 10, to over 250 flowers.
- The dry, nutrient poor soil that Forked Bluecurls prefer helps to limit competition from other vegetation.
- There are 11 subpopulations in Canada, with only one occurring in Atlantic Canada.



Curled stamens and style

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## Similar Species

None. No other dry-habitat species has blue flowers with curled flower parts.

## Threats to Survival

- Unauthorized off-highway vehicle usage on rock barren habitat.
- Because the Nova Scotia population does not rely on human disturbance to create the open habitat in which it thrives, it faces fewer immediate threats than the Ontario and Quebec populations that are reliant on human disturbance.



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## How You Can Help

Drive off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on designated trails only and do not travel in sensitive lakeshore, wetland and rock barren habitats.



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Surveying rock barrens

## Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship

**Sighting Reports:** Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre [accdc.com/en/contribute.html](https://accdc.com/en/contribute.html);  
NS Department of Natural Resources: [biodiversity@novascotia.ca](mailto:biodiversity@novascotia.ca)

**Info:** [sararegistry.gc.ca](https://sararegistry.gc.ca)

**Stewardship:** MTRI: [info@merseytobeatic.ca](mailto:info@merseytobeatic.ca)