



PLAIN
FLORA

Tall Beakrush

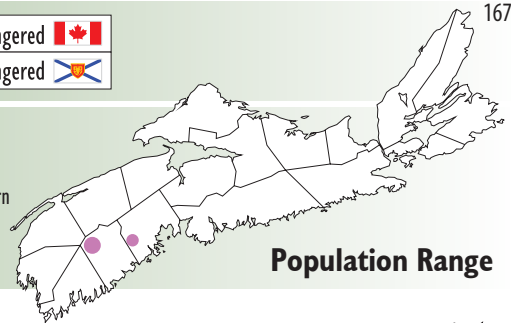
Rhynchospora macrostachya

STATUS

Endangered 

Endangered 

Found on the shorelines
of two lakes in southwestern
Nova Scotia.



Population Range

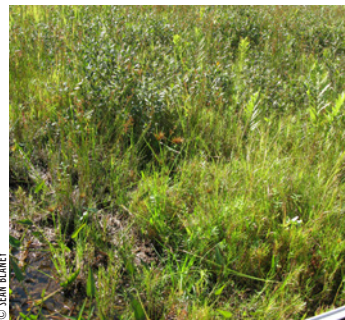
Habitat

Occurs along gravelly or partially peaty, open lakeshores with fluctuating water levels. Occupied sites are usually flooded for most of the year but exposed at the lowest annual water levels.



Species Description

Tall Beakrush is a perennial grass-like plant that is 20 - 100 cm tall with 1 cm wide flat leaves. Flowers have six elongated, barbed bristles and are enclosed within brown scales. Flowers develop into a single hard, flattened fruit (achene) 5-6 mm in length with a very long, pointed tubercle extending from it.

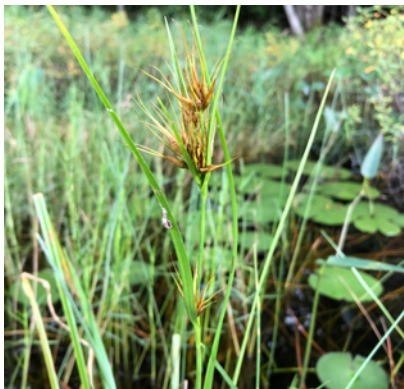


Tall Beakrush is typically found along open shorelines. Look for flowers between July and September.



Interesting Points

- First discovered in Canada in 2009, it is the 14th species of Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora to be listed at risk.
- The Canadian population makes up less than 1% of the global population, with the remaining >99% occurring in the United States.
- The nearest occurrence of Tall Beakrush is 468km away from the Canadian population.



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Similar Species

Brownish Beakrush:

Much shorter (15-40 cm), smaller spikelets (4-6 mm).



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Threats to Survival

- Development of shorelines and shrub zones.
- Encroachment of invasive species including Glossy Buckthorn.
- Long-term changes to water levels caused by damming for the purpose of hydroelectric power generation.



How You Can Help

Avoid construction of rock or concrete retaining walls or creation of artificial beaches that eliminate shoreline habitat and alter natural water currents. Maintaining natural vegetation and shoreline structure is a simple, inexpensive way of preventing shoreline erosion, and maintaining good water quality in your lake.



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Development of lakeshore



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Tall Beakrush monitoring

Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship

Sighting Reports: Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre accdc.com/en/contribute.html;
NS Department of Natural Resources: biodiversity@novascotia.ca

Info: sararegistry.gc.ca

Stewardship: MTRI: info@merseytobeatric.ca