

Shrubby Camphor-weed

Pluchea odorata

Description

Shrubby Camphor-weed is an annual herb with a more-or-less hairy stem that may reach 3 feet (1 meter) in height, but may be much smaller. As the name implies, the entire plant has a camphor-like aroma and is somewhat sticky or greasy to the touch. The leaves are alternately arranged, lance-shaped to egg-shaped, from 1.5 to 6 inches (4-15 cm) in length and ½ to 3 inches (1-7 cm) in width, stalkless or short-stalked at the base, pointed at the tip, often somewhat hairy on both surfaces, and usually toothed on the margin. The flowers, appearing from August to October, are pinkish to purple and are grouped in a cluster at the top of the stem.

Distribution & Habitat

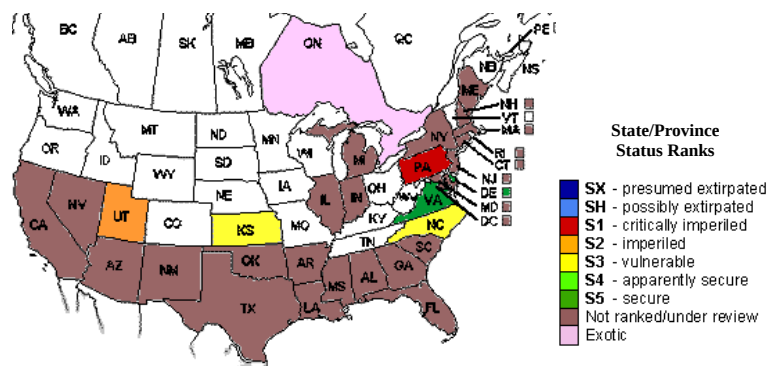
Shrubby Camphor-weed has a wide range in northeastern and southern North America, with the species being mostly coastal in the northeastern states. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in a few southeastern counties. Shrubby Camphor-weed grows in natural coastal wetlands, but may also be found in disturbed ground, such as damp clearings, openings, ditches, and along roads.



Photo source: PNHP

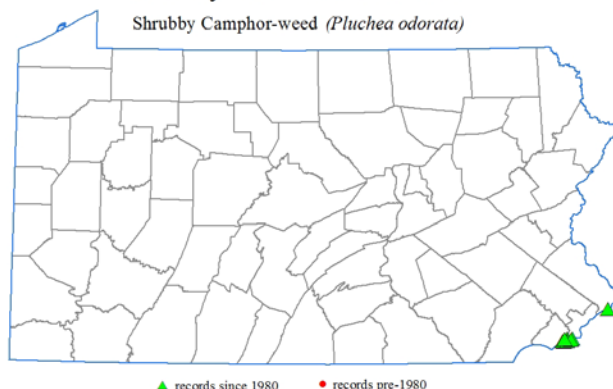
North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2014



Pennsylvania Distribution

Shrubby Camphor-weed (*Pluchea odorata*)



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2014

State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Shrubby Camphor-weed a rarity status of Endangered, but has concentrated on identifying locations where the species is occupying relatively natural habitats, and has given a lower conservation priority to populations inhabiting disturbed sites. The more natural habitats have threats from exotic species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 — Globally Secure; S1 — Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2014.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.