

# Horned Bladderwort

## *Utricularia cornuta*

### Description

The Horned Bladderwort is a perennial with very small, slender leaves that are usually hidden in the substrate or submerged in shallow water. The leaves may be difficult to locate but are noteworthy for possessing bladders that trap and digest tiny animals. The plant has yellow flowers (appearing in summer) that have a sharp-pointed spur and are borne on an erect stalk up to twelve inches in height. The fruit is a capsule with many small seeds. When flowers are absent, the plant is difficult to locate and identify.

### Distribution & Habitat

The species grows in shallow water or wet peaty substrate in ponds, bogs, seepages, and along shorelines. The horned bladderwort is widely distributed throughout the eastern half of North America. It occurs mainly in the glaciated northeastern counties in Pennsylvania.

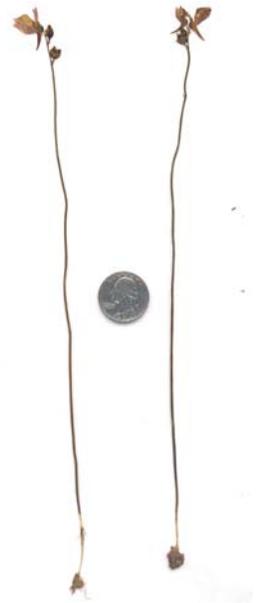
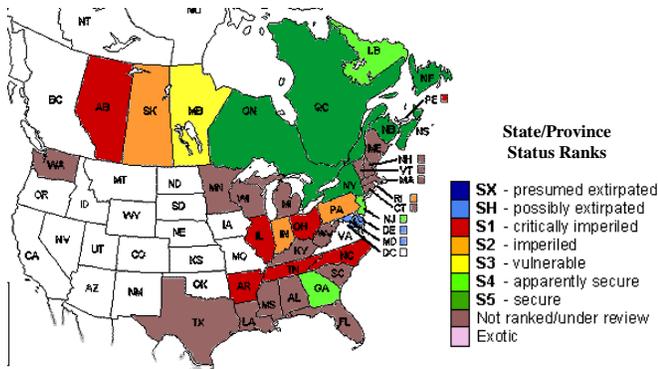


Photo source: John Kunsman (PNHP)

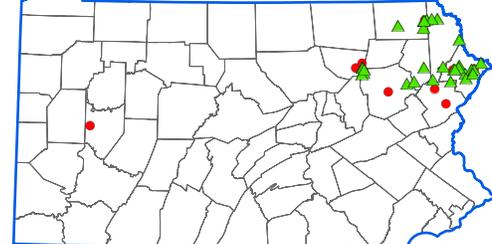
### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2010



### Pennsylvania Distribution

*Utricularia cornuta*



▲ records since 1980 ● records pre-1980  
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2011

### State Status & Conservation

The horned bladderwort has been given a status of Threatened on the Plants of Special Concern in Pennsylvania list by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, based on the relatively few historical and recent records that have been documented in the state. Additional field work is needed in order to justify this status, as recent field work has shown that the species may be more frequent than previously believed.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

**G5** – Globally Secure; **S2** – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

### References

- NatureServe. 2011. 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. 2011.
- 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program