Swamp Beggar-ticks
Bidens bidentoides

Description

Swamp Beggar-ticks is an annual herb that can grow to 3 feet (1 meter) in height, but is often smaller. The leaves are oppositely arranged, lance-shaped, from 1.5 to 4 inches (4 to 10 cm) in length and to 0.75 inch (2 cm) in width, pointed at the tip, stalked at the base, and variably toothed on the margin. The flowers, appearing from August to October, have a yellow central disk and lack the conspicuous yellow ray flowers found in other species of the genus *Bidens*. The small individual fruits, less than ½ inch (about 1 cm) in length, have 2 slender barbed projections that aid in dispersal.

Photo source: Ann Rhoads, Morris Arboretum

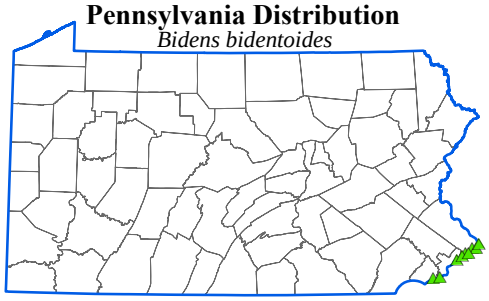
Distribution

Swamp Beggar-ticks has a relatively narrow range along the coast from New York south into Maryland. In Pennsylvania, it occurs on the edge of its range, and has been documented historically in a few southeastern counties along the Delaware River.

Habitat

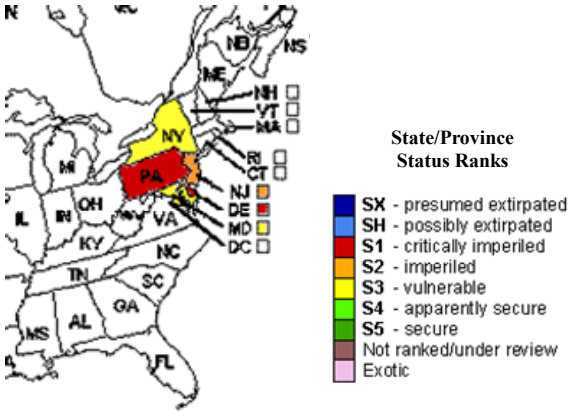
Swamp Beggar-ticks grows in intertidal marshes, mudflats, and shores. The plants have a tendency to root on decaying wood, such as pieces of driftwood and old piers and boat docks.

Pennsylvania Distribution
Bidens bidentoides



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

North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe 2010



State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Swamp Beggar-ticks a rarity status of Endangered, based on the limited global and state range, the relatively few populations that have been confirmed, the small population sizes, and the very specialized habitat. The known populations have threats from exotic species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G3G4 – Vulnerable/Apparently Secure**; S1** – Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

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- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2011.
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- 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania