

# Roseroot Stonecrop

## *Sedum rosea*

### Description

Roseroot Stonecrop is a perennial herb with a hairless aerial stem that grows to about 1 foot (0.3 m) in height. The aerial stem arises from a very thick underground stem. The leaves are alternately arranged or grouped in whorls, thick in texture, stalkless, hairless, widest near their tip, to 2 inches (5 cm) in length and ½ inch (12 mm) in width, with the margins untoothed or more often with a few teeth near the tip. The flowers, which appear in May or early June, are aggregated in a small branched cluster at the end of the stem, with the male and female flowers being on separate plants. The individual flowers have 4 or 5 petals, which are very narrow (1 mm or less in width) and usually yellow in color, although they may be entirely or tinged red-purple. The fruits are dry and contain many seeds.

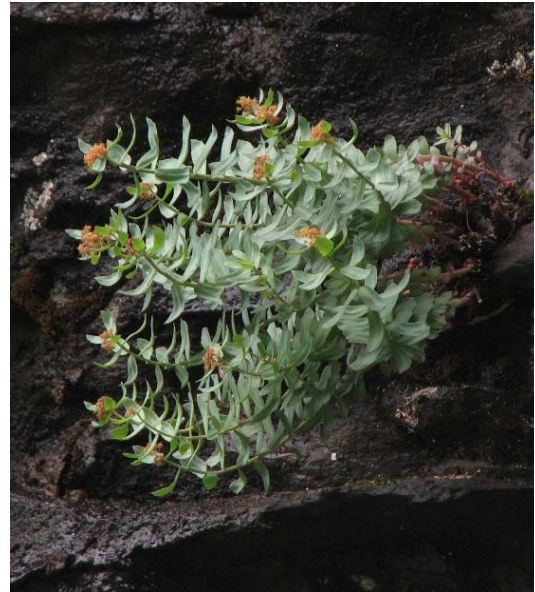


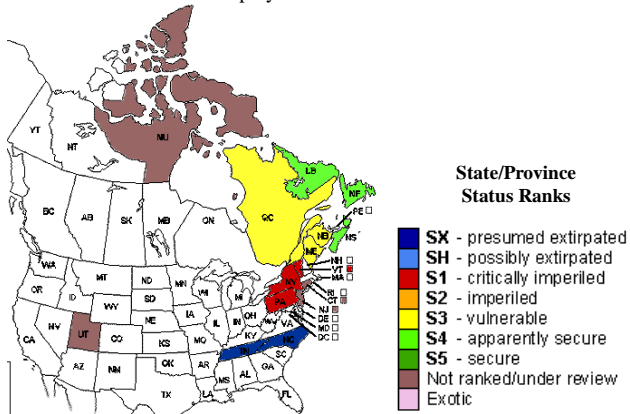
Photo source: Rocky Gleason (PNHP)

### Distribution & Habitat

Roseroot Stonecrop ranges from northeastern Canada south into North Carolina and Tennessee. In Pennsylvania, it represents a northerly species and has been documented historically in only a few counties along the Delaware River. The species grows on damp or seepy, northerly-facing, cliffs and rock ledges.

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2010

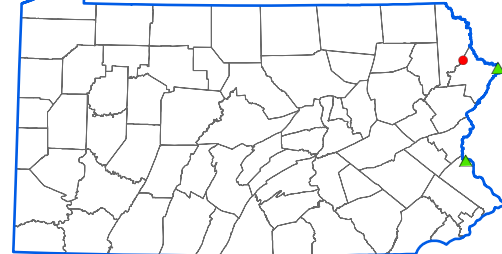


### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Roseroot Stonecrop to be a species of special concern, based on the very few locations that have been recently confirmed and the specialized cliff habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status and a PABS suggested rarity status of Endangered.

### Pennsylvania Distribution

*Sedum rosea*



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

### Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of Roseroot Stonecrop and its habitat may be enhanced by protecting the natural hydrology and controlling invasive species. The Pennsylvania populations, possibly the southernmost still existing in eastern North America, may be important in conserving the overall genetic diversity of the species.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S1 – Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

### References

- NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <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