

Subulate Arrowhead

Sagittaria subulata

Description

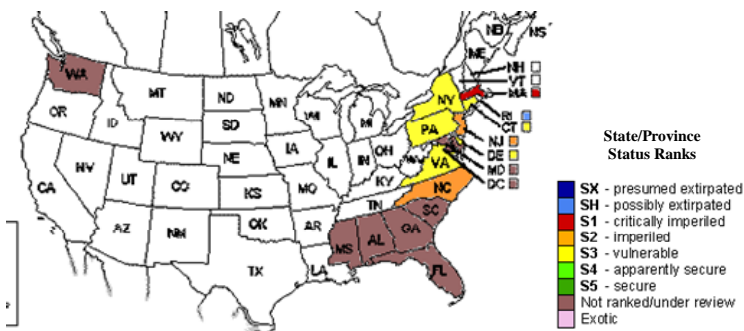
Subulate Arrowhead is a small perennial herb generally only a few inches in height that forms small mats due to its horizontally-spreading stems. The leaves are linear to strap-shaped, up to 3 inches (7.5 cm) in length and 1/8 inch (4 mm) in width, somewhat spongy, and do not have an expanded leaf blade at the tip. The flowers, appearing from June to September, have 3 white petals that are only a few millimeters in length. The individual flowers are grouped in a whorl-like cluster. The sepals of each flower are persistent, and are spreading or bent down beneath the fruiting heads, which consist of a group of flattened, one-seeded fruits that are 1 or 2 mm in length.



Photo source: Andrew Strassman (PNHP)

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2010

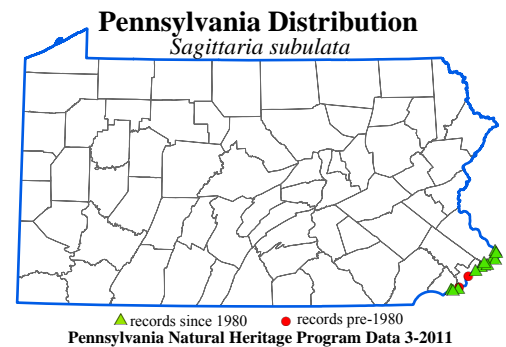


Distribution & Habitat

Subulate Arrowhead has a range from Massachusetts south along the coast into Florida and Alabama. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented recently only in a few southeastern counties along the Delaware River. Subulate Arrowhead grows in intertidal marshes, mudflats, and river shores. The intertidal populations are subjected to daily cycles of exposure and inundation.

State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Subulate Arrowhead a rarity status of Rare. The species appears to be successful enough in maintaining its populations so as not to be endangered or threatened with extirpation, yet has a very limited range in the state and a very specialized habitat. The populations of Subulate Arrowhead have threats from exotic species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.



NatureServe conservation status ranks

G4 — Apparently Secure; **S3** — Vulnerable 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. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

