White Twisted-stalk
Streptopus amplexifolius

Description

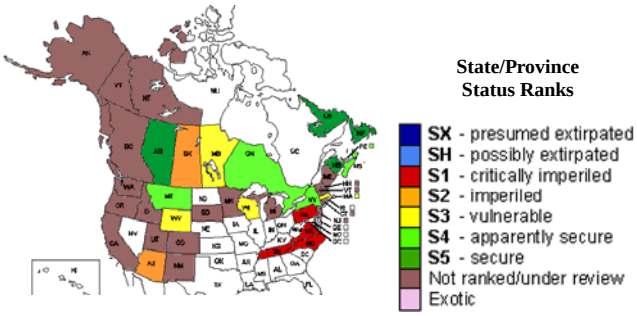
Photo source: PNHP

White Twisted-stalk is an herbaceous perennial with a mostly hairless, often branched stem that may grow to 3 feet (1 m) in height. The leaves are alternately arranged, thin in texture, hairless, lance-shaped or egg-shaped, clasping the stem at the base and pointed at the tip, 2-5 inches (5-13 cm) in length and ¾-2 inches (2-5 cm) in width, and without teeth or hairs on the margin. The greenish-white flowers, appearing in May and June, have 6 petal-like segments about 3/8 inch (1 cm) in length that bend outward from their middle. The flowers generally occur singly or in pairs and attach to stalks from the bases of the middle and upper leaves. The fruit is berry-like, reddish at maturity, and contains many minute seeds. A very similar species, Rose Mandarin (*Streptopus roseus*), has pinkish flowers and hairy stems and leaf margins.

Distribution & Habitat

White Twisted-stalk has a transcontinental range across the cooler regions of North America. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in the northern, particularly in the northeastern, counties. It grows on seepy cliffs and rock outcrops, in cool shaded conditions, often near waterfalls.

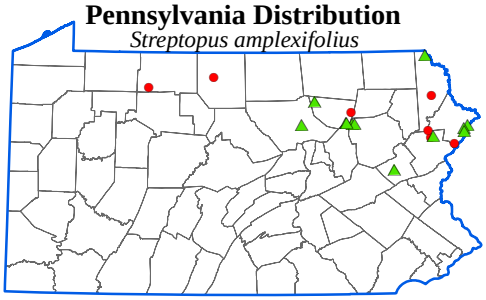
North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe 2010



Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers White Twisted-stalk to be a species of special concern, based on the limited number of locations recently confirmed, the generally small populations, and the specialized habitat. It has a PA legal rarity of Threatened and a PABS suggested rarity status of Endangered.

Pennsylvania Distribution
Streptopus amplexifolius



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

Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of White Twisted-stalk and its habitat may be enhanced by maintaining forested conditions and protecting the natural hydrology. The decline and possible loss of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) due to infestations of the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) represents a threat to the habitat of White Twisted-stalk.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; **S1** – Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

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Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

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- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
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