

Branched Bartonia

Bartonia paniculata



Status: **Threatened**

Threats:

- ◆ Wetland alteration and habitat loss
- ◆ Populations are isolated
- ◆ Invasive species such as Black Buckthorn



Description:

- ◆ Annual herb 10 to 40 cm tall; may appear much shorter since it often grows in sphagnum moss
- ◆ Stem is green or purple; angled and occasionally twining
- ◆ Leaves are reduced to minute scales arranged in an essentially alternate fashion
- ◆ Inflorescence is usually a panicle of few to numerous, small, white, 4-lobed flowers on divergent or curved ascending branches

Biology:

- ◆ Reproduces only by seed
- ◆ Possibly heterotrophic (dependent on soil fungi for much of its nutrient requirements)
- ◆ Generally occur as clumps of plants

Habitat:

- ◆ A species of the Atlantic Coastal Plain
- ◆ In Ontario, only found at fewer than 10 sites in Muskoka-Parry Sound; most sites are near the Georgian Bay shoreline
- ◆ Found in peat soils in sphagnum bogs, fens, and low shrub peatlands with stunted Tamarack and Black Spruce

Species at Risk
STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

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Branched Bartonia on Your Property? Here's What You Can Do:

- ◆ **Keep your wetlands intact!** Many Species at Risk rely on wetlands for all or part of their lifecycle.
- ◆ **Stay on the trail.** When recreating in wetland areas, stay on marked trails to prevent damaging sensitive wetland habitat.
- ◆ **See Branched Bartonia?** Submit your sighting to the Natural Heritage Information Centre at nhic.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/species/species_report.cfm. Photographs with specific locations or mapping coordinates are always helpful.
- ◆ **Contact the Ministry of Natural Resources.** If you find Branched Bartonia on your property, you may be eligible for stewardship programs that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. Contact the MNR for more information.
- ◆ **Learn More.** Check out the Species at Risk section on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.



STEWARDS' GUIDE SERIES

Ontario's Endangered Species Act

Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* came into force on June 30, 2008, making Ontario a North American leader in the protection of species at risk and their habitats.

Compared to Ontario's previous Act, written in 1971, the new ESA 2007 provides:

- ◆ Science-based assessment of species' status
- ◆ Automatic protection of a species and its habitat once it's listed as endangered or threatened
- ◆ Broader protection for species at risk and their habitats
- ◆ Greater support for volunteer stewardship efforts of private landowners, resource users, and conservation organizations
- ◆ A commitment to recovery of species through recovery planning
- ◆ Greater accountability, including government reporting requirements

Ontario is home to more than 30,000 species, most of which have stable populations.

However, more than 180 species in Ontario, 34 of which are found in Parry Sound-Muskoka, are currently considered "at risk" because of threats like:

- ◆ Habitat loss
- ◆ Global changes in insect populations
- ◆ Pollution
- ◆ Invasive species
- ◆ Climate change
- ◆ Over-harvesting
- ◆ Road mortality



Learn more about Species at Risk on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca.