



Eastern Lilaeopsis

Lilaeopsis chinensis



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Species Description

Eastern Lilaeopsis is a semi-aquatic plant found in the intertidal zone. Its narrow, dark green leaves are rounded at the tip, are 3-5 cm long, and have faint horizontal lines. They originate from a horizontal stem (rhizome) just under the muddy surface. Clusters of 5-8 small, white, five petal flowers grow at the top of stalks up to 8 cm long. Its fruits are oval shaped with lines running along the sides.



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STATUS

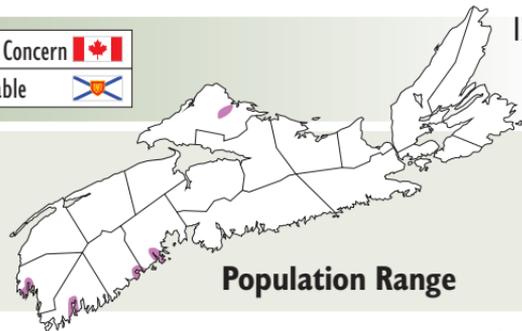
Special Concern 

Vulnerable



125

Occurs in five estuaries and one estuarine lake (Pleasant lake) in Nova Scotia.



Population Range

Habitat

Typically occurs on flat or gentle muddy slopes in the intertidal zone of river estuaries that are protected from the open ocean. During the daily tide cycles the plants range from being submerged under 2 m of water to being completely exposed.



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Eastern Lilaeopsis is found in the brackish waters of estuaries and estuarine lakes and is frequently associated with Saltwater Cordgrass. Look for its flowers between August and September.

Interesting Points

- Its Latin name is *chinensis* as it was mistakenly thought to have originated in China.
- This species is rare because it exists at the northern limit of its range, not because of human activity.
- It was first discovered in Nova Scotia by the renowned Harvard University botanist Merritt Fernald in 1920.



Growing under Saltwater Cordgrass

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Similar Species

Eastern *Lilaepsis* can be distinguished from other mud-dwelling semi-aquatic plants, such as Mudwort (*Limosella australis*), by its blunt-ended leaves and tendency to occur in large patches.

Eastern *Lilaepsis* does not form rosettes; its leaves attach to the rhizomatous stem individually.



Mudwort

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Threats to Survival

- Habitat loss and degradation from shoreline development.
- Infilling of estuaries.
- Road building.

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Flower progression from start of flower to fruits

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How You Can Help 9 of 13

Property owners, farmers, developers, contractors and inspectors are encouraged to become aware of where ACPF occur, the practices that support these species and their habitat, and alternatives to current activities that may be harmful. Learn about and apply for any provincial permits required near lakeshore, wetland and coastal habitats and contact your local municipality to learn about the land use by-laws in your region.



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Lilaepsis underwater during high tide

Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora, www.speciesatrisk.ca/stewardshipguide

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings

Stewardship: Nova Scotia Nature Trust: nature@nsnt.ca, MTRI: info@merseytobeatic.ca