Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program

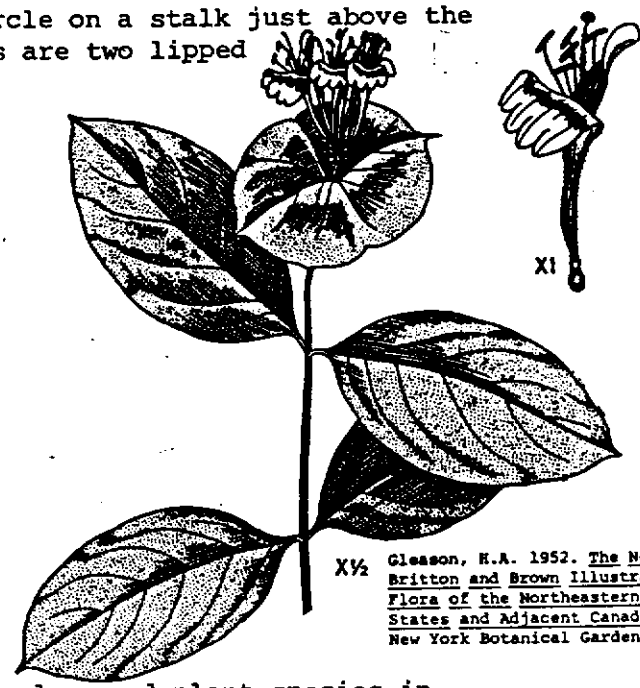
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Route 135
Westborough, MA 01581
(508)792-7270, ext. 200

MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

HAIRY HONEYSUCKLE
(Lonicera hirsuta Eat.)

DESCRIPTION

Hairy Honeysuckle is a twining and high climbing shrub. The young stems of this plant are very hairy and glandular. The sometimes dull green leaves are about 2½ - 4³/4 in. (6 - 12 cm.) long. The leaf blades are rounded almost equally at both ends and are usually hairy on both sides. The upper one or two leaf pairs unite at their bases to form a roundish disc with rather pointed tips. 1 to 4 yellow or orange flowers are arranged in a circle on a stalk just above the upper most leaf pair. These attractive flowers are two lipped with the lower lip divided into four lobes. The flowers are slenderly funnelform below the lips and are sticky-hairy, 1 in. (2½cm.) long. The shrub flowers in June and July. The fruit is a cluster of red berries.



Gleason, H.A. 1952. The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. The New York Botanical Garden.

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

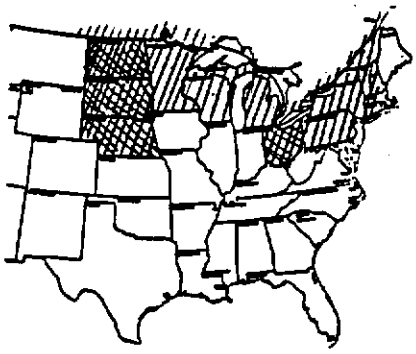
This shrub is found in open to lightly shaded exposures on dry calcareous ledges and outcrops.

RANGE

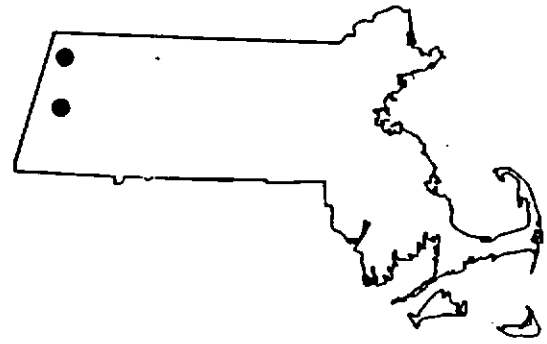
Hairy Honeysuckle ranges from western Quebec and western New England westward to Saskatchewan and south to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

POPULATION STATUS

Hairy Honeysuckle is presently considered an endangered plant species in Massachusetts. Two current occurrences (1978 to present) have been reported and no historical occurrences are known from Massachusetts. Reasons for this plants rarity include loss of habitat through forest succession and scarcity of suitable calcareous habitats.



Distribution of Hairy Honeysuckle



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town

1985