Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
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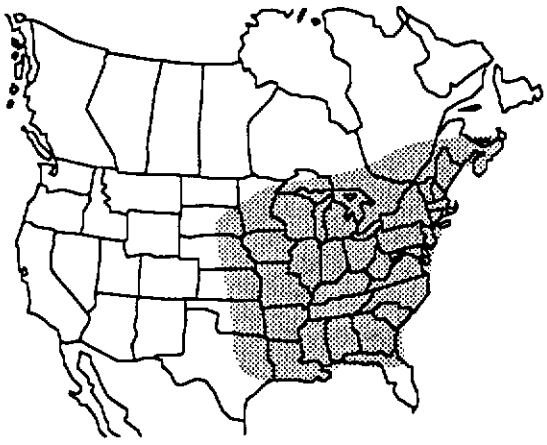
THREATENED SPECIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

LONG-STYLED SANICLE
(*Sanicula odorata*)
Formerly known as *S. gregaria*

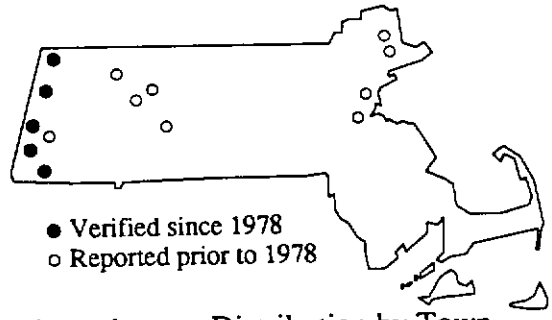
DESCRIPTION: Long-styled sanicle is a bristly-fruited herbaceous perennial in the Parsley family (Apiaceae or Umbelliferae) that grows from 1 - 14 dm (up to 3 ft.) in height. It has 3 to 5-parted, palmately divided, stem-borne leaves and small, yellowish-green flowers arranged in umbels (flat-topped group of flowers in which all the flowers arise from a single point resembling an umbrella). The female or pistillate flowers are borne on very short stalks. The male or staminate flowers have sepals that are triangular in shape, with the broad side at the base. Long-styled sanicle's somewhat spherical (sub-globose) fruits are brownish green in color and covered in hooked bristles that are less than 2 mm (0.08 in.) long that do not broaden at the base. Long-styled sanicle's staminate flowers are shorter than its fruits, and its styles are longer than its fruit bristles. Long-styled sanicle fruits from late July to late August.

RANGE: The documented range of long-styled sanicle extends from Nova Scotia and Quebec to Minnesota and eastern South Dakota, south to Florida and Texas.

Gleason, H.A. The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the U.S. & Adjacent Canada. NY Botanical Garden, 1952.



Documented Range of Long-styled Sanicle



Massachusetts Distribution by Town

SIMILAR SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS: Several other sanicles that occur in our area could be mistaken for long-styled sanicle. These include black snakeroot (*Sanicula marilandica*), long-fruited sanicle (*S. trifoliata*), and the state-listed Canadian sanicle (*S. canadensis*). Black snakeroot differs from long-styled sanicle in that its fruit bristles are conspicuously swollen at the base; in addition, its pistillate flowers are stalkless (those of long-styled sanicle have short stalks). Long-fruited snakeroot can be differentiated from long-styled snakeroot by the fact that its pistillate flowers have no stalks. Finally, Canadian sanicle, unlike long-styled sanicle, has styles that are shorter than the fruit bristles.

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS: Long-styled sanicle is a plant of woods, particularly rich mesic woods, and thickets. (Rich mesic woods are a type of woodland in which soil moisture is moderate and humus and soil nutrients, particularly calcium, are abundant.) In Massachusetts, all current habitats (verified since 1978) are moist woodlands. These include a narrow, forested alluvial flat by a rapid river; a trail through a rich mesic woods; two floodplain woodlands; and two woods roads—one traversing a swamp and the other a rich mesic forest. Associated species include sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), large-flowered bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), and wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*). At least five of these current habitats have several species associated with rich mesic woods, in addition to long-styled sanicle. Among these species are the trees sugar maple, white ash, and basswood (*Tilia americana*); the understory tree ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*); the shrub leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*); and the herbaceous layer species narrow-leaved spleenwort (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*), Goldie's fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*), wild leek (*Allium tricoccum*), long-fruited sanicle (*Sanicula trifoliata*), ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) and narrow-leaved spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*). (Both ginseng and narrow-leaved spring beauty are state-listed species.) All current stations are either shaded or receive filtered sunlight.

POPULATION STATUS IN MASSACHUSETTS: Long-styled sanicle is currently listed as "Threatened" in Massachusetts, where there are six current stations (discovered or relocated since 1978) in five towns and 13 historical stations (unverified since 1978) in 11 towns. Lanesborough and Williamstown both have current and historical stations and each town is represented by a single, solid dot. Long-styled sanicle is also considered rare in New Hampshire. At the western end of its range it was present historically in North Dakota. As with all species listed in Massachusetts, individuals of the species are protected from take (picking, collecting, killing...) and sale under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: As with most rare plants, exact needs for management of long-styped sanicle are not known. The following advice comes from observations of the populations in Massachusetts. This sanicle occurs in moist to wet alluvial soil near brooks and rivers, and occasionally near swamps. The soil is fertile and probably circumneutral or slightly alkaline. It grows well in light shade of open woods. To preserve this plant the soil and hydrology should not be disturbed and the canopy not completely opened.

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