



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

www.mass.gov/nhesp

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Broad Tinker's-weed *Triosteum perfoliatum* L.

State Status: **Endangered**

Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: Broad Tinker's-weed (also known as Wild Coffee or Horse-gentian), a member of the honeysuckle family, is a coarse herb which grows up to 13 dm (4 feet) tall but is usually less than 9 dm (3 feet) in Massachusetts. One to six stout stems grow from a common base. Leaves are obovate or obovate-oblong, 10-22 cm (4-9 in.) long, 4-10 cm (1.5-4 in.) wide, abruptly narrow below the middle, fused around the stem, and usually softly pubescent beneath. Purplish brown or greenish sessile (stalkless) flowers grow in groups of 1 to 4 from each axil. The sepals are 10-18 mm (.25-.75 in.) long, finely and uniformly pubescent on back and margin, and often glandular. The slight fleshy fruit is greenish orange to orange-red and very conspicuous in summer/fall.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Wild Coffee, *Triosteum aurantiacum* (also called Tinker's-weed or Horse-gentian), is very similar to Broad Tinker's-weed, and the two have been considered varieties of the same species by some authors. However, Wild Coffee is readily separable by its much narrower leaves which are not broadly joined around the stem – only a narrow

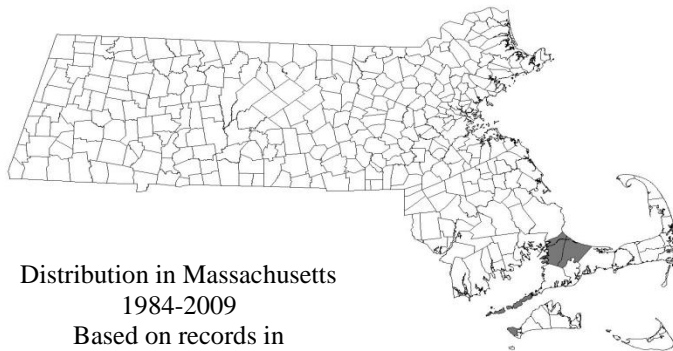


Holmgren, Noel H. 1998. *The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual*. The New York Botanical Garden.

connector can be seen around the stem connecting the bases of the leaves. Ordinarily, it prefers more mesic (moderately moist) conditions than Broad Tinker's-weed.

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS: In general, Broad Tinker's-weed is found in dry, open woods or thickets, usually shunning dense shade. Two stations are situated on top of shell middens from Native American camp sites, and one is in a shrubby coastal heathland. Associated plant species include Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) and Agrimony (*Agrimonia gryposepala*).

RANGE: Broad Tinker's-weed grows from Massachusetts to southern Minnesota and south to northern Georgia, Louisiana, and eastern Texas.



Distribution in Massachusetts
1984-2009
Based on records in
Natural Heritage Database

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA; tel: 508-389-6300; fax: 508-389-7890; www.mass.gov/dfw

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

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POPULATION STATUS: Broad Tinker's-weed is currently listed as Endangered in Massachusetts. There are 6 historical records (unverified since 1984) and 5 current occurrences (discovered or relocated since 1990). Habitat succession, from more open or shrubby conditions to densely forested, is apparently the main reason for rarity here. This condition has resulted from a widespread halt in cutting and burning. The species is also considered rare in Rhode Island, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and North Carolina.

Updated 2015

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