



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Climbing Fumitory *Adlumia fungosa* (Ait.) Greene

State Status: **Special Concern**
Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: Climbing Fumitory is an herbaceous biennial vine that can reach lengths of 10 feet (3 m). In its first year, this plant consists of a rosette of several spreading or upright non-climbing leaves without a central stem. In its second year, it develops a slender, elongate stem and large delicate leaves. Lacking tendrils, it clammers over rocks and climbs vegetation using its stem and leaves. The leaves are 3-times-pinnate and the leaflets are mostly 3-lobed. The uppermost leaflets are much smaller than the rest of the leaves. Climbing Fumitory flowers from mid-June to early August. The flowers are white or pinkish, ½ inch long, and droop in loose clusters from the axils. The four petals are joined to form a bell-shaped flower similar to those of Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra canadense*). The leaves are somewhat similar to those of Pink Corydalis (*Capnoides sempervirens*).

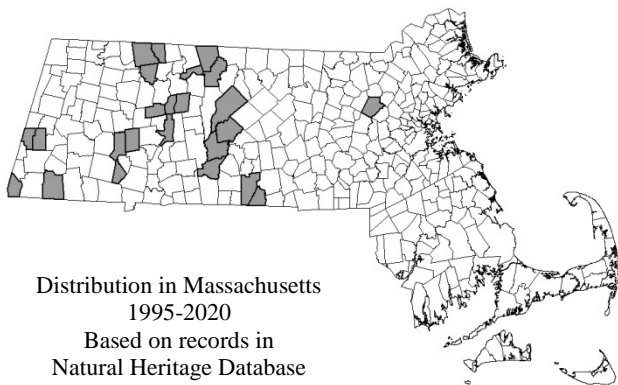
RANGE: The range of Climbing Fumitory is from Quebec to Minnesota and Iowa, south to North Carolina and Tennessee.



Photo by Bryan Connolly, NHESP

HABITAT: In Massachusetts, Climbing Fumitory inhabits moist ledges and rocky woods. It is usually found in the partial shade, climbing over talus at the base of cliffs. It grows in association with Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Basswood (*Tilia americana*), Black Birch (*Betula lenta*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*), Round-leaved Dogwood (*Swida rugosa*), and Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

THREATS: This species is threatened by excessive shading by maturing forest, particularly by Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). Therefore, forest maturation and canopy closure, resulting from a lack of natural or anthropogenic disturbance, often casts too much shade. Although it thrives in areas with some disturbance, too much disturbance also may be problematic. Threats from logging activities may include driving over plants, turning over rocks with plants, and covering plants with slash from logging operations.



Distribution in Massachusetts
1995-2020
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

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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 IN MASSACHUSETTS:

Climbing Fumitory is listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as a Species of Special Concern. All listed species are legally protected from killing, collection, possession, or sale, and from activities that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors. Climbing Fumitory is currently known from Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, and Worcester Counties. A single small population also is known from Middlesex County.

Flowering Time in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: As with many rare species, the exact management needs of Climbing Fumitory are not known. Sites should be monitored for over-shading caused by forest succession, and for invasive plant species. Habitat sites that do not receive enough light can be managed with canopy thinning or prescribed burning. To avoid inadvertent harm to rare plants, all active management of rare plant populations (including invasive species removal) should be planned in consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

Updated 2020

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

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