



**Natural Heritage
& Endangered Species
Program**

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

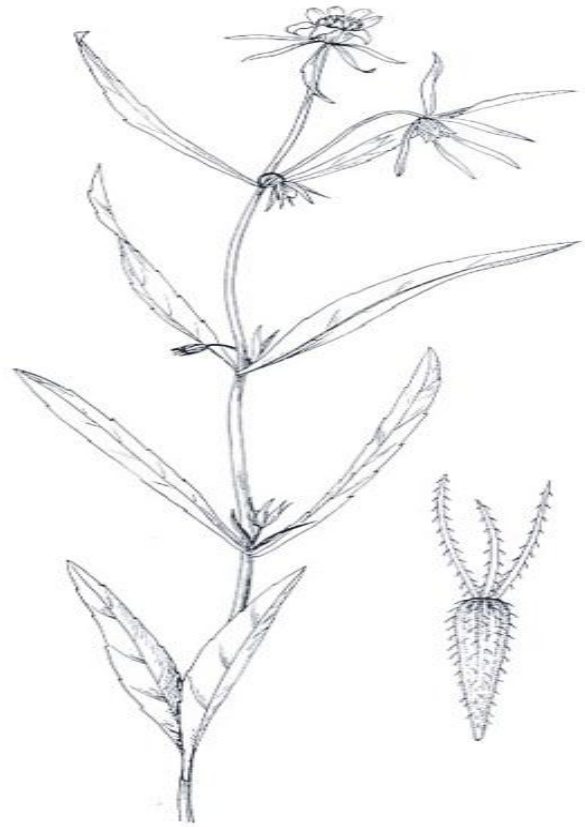
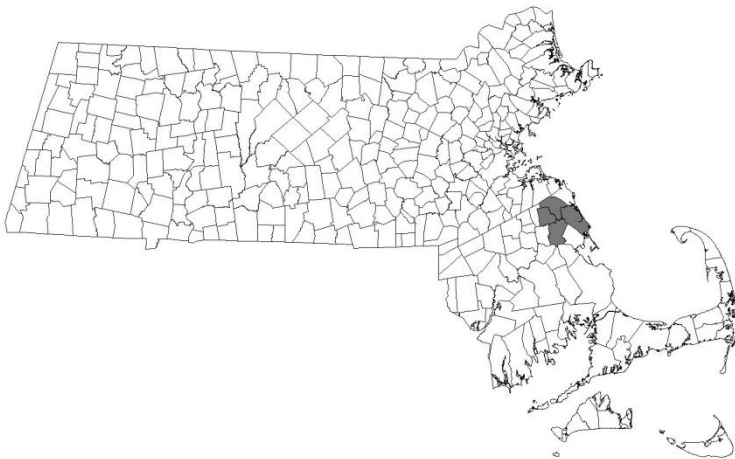
**Estuary Beggar-ticks
Bidens hyperborea
Greene**

State Status: **Endangered**

Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: Estuary Beggar-ticks is an annual plant in the Composite family reaching a height of half a meter. The one to a few flowering heads are found in the leaf axils, terminating the plant. The flower heads may be composed of a central yellowish button of disk flowers or may also have short yellow rays (petal-like flowers) surrounding the disk. The leaves are smooth, opposite, and stalkless. The one-seeded dried fruit, known as an achene, is rough-hairy and has three barbed teeth. These barbed fruits become easily attached to the clothing of passers-by, hence the common name. Estuary Beggar-ticks usually flowers from August through September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Eaton's Beggar-ticks (*Bidens eatonii*) occurs in practically the same habitat, although the two species have not been found together in Massachusetts. It differs from Estuary Beggar-ticks in having obviously stalked leaves and practically hairless achenes. Another species, Swamp Beggar-ticks (*Bidens connata*) may grow in the upper tidal zone but is taller, with broader leaves and achenes with wart-like bumps.



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

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS: Estuary Beggar-ticks is found along the muddy margins and exposed banks of tidal rivers, growing with wild rice, water plantain, water pimpernel, cardinal flower, climbing hempweed, and smartweeds. Although covered by daily tides, the plants occur well upstream where salinity is low.

RANGE: Estuary Beggar-ticks ranges from the Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, to Massachusetts and the Hudson River in New York. It is also found in the James Bay region.

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: Estuary Beggar-ticks is listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as Endangered. All listed species are protected from killing, collecting, possessing, or sale and from activities that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors. Currently, only two occurrences are documented in Massachusetts; historically, it was also known from the Merrimack River. This species is rare in the state because it is near the southern limit of its range and because its natural habitat has been diminished by damming rivers: fewer than five good occurrences of Freshwater Tidal Marsh remain in Massachusetts. Threats include damming and subsequent flooding or drawdown, filling of marshes, and siltation.

Updated 2015

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