



**Natural Heritage
& Endangered Species
Program**

www.mass.gov/nhesp

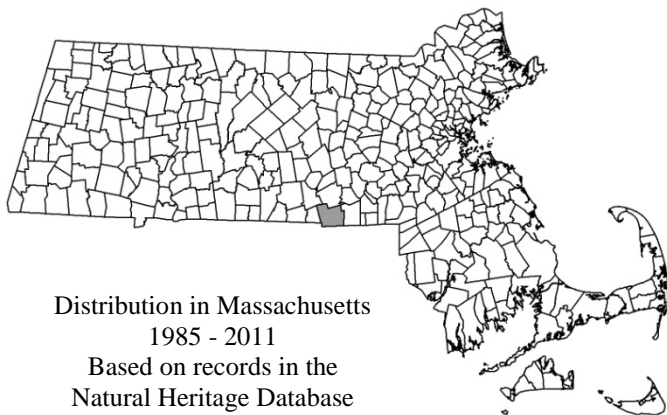
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

One-flower Sclerolepis
Sclerolepis uniflora
(Walt.) BSP

State Status: **Endangered**
Federal Status: **None**

Description: One-flower Sclerolepis is a delicate, creeping plant in the Aster family (Compositae or Asteraceae), which can form extensive mats on pond shores. The linear, stalkless, hairless leaves are 1-2 cm (2/5 - 4/5 in.) long and are arranged in whorls of four to six. The stems reach from 1 to 4 dm (3 to 18 in.) in length and are usually unbranched. In autumn, One-flower Sclerolepis produces pinkish or flesh-colored flowers borne in a terminal head (a dense cluster of small, stalkless flowers). This inflorescence is 4-15 mm (4/25 - 15/25 in.) wide. The fruit is a 1-1.3 mm (1/25 in.) long, dark brown to black achene (a dry, one-seeded fruit) with whitish ribs. One-flower Sclerolepis is a perennial that can spread vegetatively and overwinters as slender, whitish rhizomes (horizontal underground stems which may bear rootlets).

Range: The documented range of One-flower Sclerolepis includes areas near the coast from Alabama and Florida to New Jersey. Disjunct populations occur in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.



Similar Species: Golden Hedge Hyssop (*Gratiola aurea*) is found in the same habitat as One-flower Sclerolepis. While Golden Hedge Hyssop looks similar when immature, it has only two opposite leaves per node and has wider, or lanceolate, leaves. In addition, mature plants of Golden Hedge Hyssop have showy, yellow, tube-shaped flowers.

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.

www.mass.gov/nhesp

Habitat: One-flower Sclerolepis is found on sunny pond shores, amongst cobbles or where leaf litter collects, where there is a considerable drop in water level late in the summer. It appears to require protection from wave action; however, it can grow both on beaches and in shallow water. The one current station in Massachusetts is a pond shore habitat, including sandy, gravelly areas among boulders and wet, peaty areas. Associated species include the water milfoils *Proserpinaca intermedia* and *Proserpinaca pectinata*, Pipewort (*Eriocaulon septangulare*), Golden Hedge Hyssop (*Gratiola aurea*), various species of rush (*Juncus* spp.), and mermaid-weed (*Myriophyllum* spp.).

Population Status in Massachusetts: One-flower Sclerolepis is currently listed as Endangered in Massachusetts. There is only one population in the Commonwealth, which was first discovered in 1911. Reasons for the plant's rarity include the plant's limited dispersal capability and the fact that Massachusetts is disjunct from the major portion of the plant's range. Threats include shore development and foot traffic. One-flower Sclerolepis is also considered rare in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Louisiana.

Updated 2019

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

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.

www.mass.gov/nhesp