

About MNAP
Focus Areas
Communities, Plants and Animals
Natural Communities and Ecosystems
Rare Plants
Invasive Plants
Ecological Inventory and Monitoring
Rare Animals
State and Global Rarity Ranks
Survey Forms
Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
Ecological Reserves

Maine Natural Areas Program

Minuartia glabra (Michx.) Mattf.

Smooth Sandwort

- [State Rank](#): S3
- [Global Rank](#): G4
- [State Status](#): Special Concern

Habitat: Open granitic ledges of mountains less than 1000 m tall. [Rocky summits and outcrops (non-forested, upland)]

Range: Local, New England and New York, south to the mountains of Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.



Aids to Identification: Smooth sandwort is an erect, glabrous herb with small white flowers and sessile (stalkless) leaves. The flowers, borne in groups of 3-7 per stem, are composed of a circle of 5 petals, each only 4-6 mm long. Likewise, the leaves are quite small, the upper measuring only 8-30 mm in length. *M. glabra* looks very similar to [M. groenlandica](#), a species normally found on the higher mountains of western and central Maine. *M. groenlandica* is smaller with a dense tuft of basal leaves, 3-7 flowered cymes, and petals 6-10 mm long.

Ecological characteristics: This species is typically found in Maine along rocky outcrops on the coast and inland.

Phenology: Flowers May - September.

Family: Caryophyllaceae

Synonyms: *Arenaria glabra* Michx.; *Arenaria groenlandica* (Retz.) Spreng. var. *glabra* (Michx.) Fern.; *Minuartia groenlandica* (Retz.) Ostenf. ssp. *glabra* (Michx.) A. & D. Löve; *Porsildia groenlandica* (Retz.) A. & D. Löve ssp. *glabra* (Michx.) A. & D. Löve; *Sabulina glabra* (Michx.) Small.



Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 25 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Sagadahoc, Somerset.

Reason(s) for rarity: At northern limit of range.

Conservation considerations: Some populations could be threatened by heavy recreational (hiking) use of its hilltop habitat, but the plant appears to cope well with moderate disturbance.



Credits



Copyright © 2013
All rights reserved.

Information

- [Maine.gov](#)
- [Site Policies](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Comments/Questions](#)
- [Jobs @ DACF](#)
- [Grants & Loans](#)
- [Educational Resources](#)

Connect with Us

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Email/SMS Updates](#)

[Event & Meeting Calendar](#)
[See more social media...](#)

Support DACF
Programs

- [Maine State Park Passes](#)
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Specialty License Plates](#)
- [Outdoor Heritage Fund Lottery Ticket](#)
- [Donations](#)
- [See more choices...](#)

Contact

Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, ME 04333
More [Locations](#)

Phone: (207) 287-3200
Fax: (207) 287-2400
TTY: Maine Relay 711
DACF@Maine.gov