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## Maine Natural Areas Program

### Isoetes acadensis Kott

#### Acadian Quillwort

- State Rank: S2
- Global Rank: G3Q
- State Status: Special Concern

**Habitat:** Submersed in ponds or lakes, less often in rivers, rooted in gravel, sand, or mud, rarely amphibious [Open water (non-forested, wetland)].

**Range:** Nova Scotia and New Brunswick south to Massachusetts. Common in Nova Scotia.

**Aids to Identification:** The various quillwort species can be difficult to identify because they are often distinguished by microscopic differences of the reproductive macro spores. The typical form of the quillworts is a dense rosette of narrow leaves with the spores located inside the widened leaf bases. *I. acadensis* has 9-35 leaves, mostly curved backward, 5-21 cm long, and typically dark green. The megaspores are about 0.5 mm wide with a loose network of smooth, rounded ridges (vs. irregular roughened crests in *I. tuckermanii*).



**Ecological characteristics:** Generally associated with acidic water (pH 5.0-5.3).

**Phenology:** Perennial; megaspores mature in August and September.

**Family:** Isoetaceae


**Synonyms:** None noted.

**Known Distribution in Maine:** This rare plant has been documented from a total of 6 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock.

**Reason(s) for rarity:** Restricted range.

**Conservation considerations:** Maintain hydrologic integrity and water quality of pond habitat.

Credits





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