

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

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Maine Natural Areas Program



Salix exigua Nutt. ssp. *interior* (Rowlee) Cronq.

Sandbar Willow

- [State Rank](#): S1
- [Global Rank](#): G5
- [State Status](#): Endangered

Habitat: Sandbars, mudbars, and moist alluvial soil. [Non-tidal rivershore (non-forested, seasonally wet)]

Range: Quebec to Athabasca, Virginia, Kentucky and Texas.

Aids to Identification: Willows are recognized by their winter buds and flowers. Their buds are covered by a single cap-like scale. Their flowers are very small and are

borne in catkins. Identification of willows is complicated by the fact that these plants are dioecious - the staminate and carpellate flowers are borne on separate plants. The sandbar willow is a shrub, growing usually 1-1.5 m high, with elongate, sharply pointed leaves with teeth at the edges spaced far apart. The leaves are borne on short petioles less than 3 mm long and are green on both surfaces. Carpellate flowers have a large sessile stigma. The filaments of stamens are densely pubescent in the basal half.



Ecological characteristics: Found along river banks, often one of the earliest species to colonize these areas.

Phenology: Flowers April - May.

Family: Salicaceae

Synonyms: *Salix exigua* Nutt. var. *exterior* (Fern.) C.F. Reed; *Salix exigua* Nutt. var. *pedicellata* (Anderss.) Cronq.; *Salix exigua* Nutt. var. *sericans* (Nees) Nesom; *Salix fluviatilis* Nutt. var. *sericans* (Nees) Boivin; *Salix interior* Rowlee; *Salix interior* Rowlee var. *exterior* Fern.; *Salix interior* Rowlee var. *pedicellata* (Anderss.) C.R. Ball; *Salix interior* Rowlee var. *wheeleri* Rowlee; *Salix longifolia* Muhl.; *Salix longifolia* Muhl. var. *interior* (Rowlee) M.E. Jones; *Salix longifolia* Muhl. var. *sericans* Nees; *Salix longifolia* Muhl. var. *wheeleri* (Rowlee) C.K. Schneider; *Salix wheeleri* (Rowlee) Rydb.

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 4 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Kennebec, Oxford.



Reason(s) for rarity: Scarcity of open rivershore habitat.

Conservation considerations: Maintain hydrologic integrity of its rivershore habitat, including the natural disturbance.

Credits

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