

Eastern Lilaeopsis

Lilaeopsis chinensis

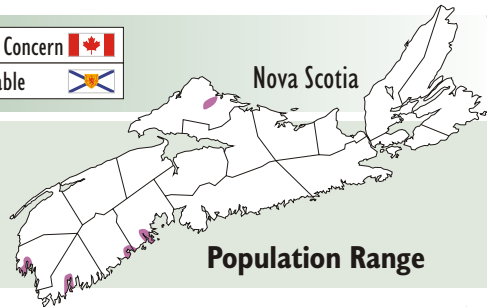
STATUS

Special Concern 

Vulnerable 

77

Nova Scotia



Occurs in five estuaries with an estimated population of at least 200,000 flowering stalks.

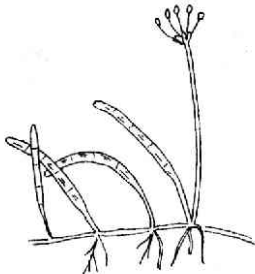
Habitat

Typically occurs on flat or gentle muddy slopes in the intertidal zone of river estuaries that are protected from the open ocean. During the daily tide cycles the plants range from being submerged under 2 m of water to being completely exposed.



Species Description

Eastern Lilaeopsis is a semi-aquatic plant found in the intertidal zone. Its narrow, dark green leaves are rounded at the tips and originate from a horizontal rhizome just under the muddy surface. Clusters of 5-8 small, white, five petal flowers grow at the top of stalks up to 8 cm long.



Eastern Lilaeopsis is found in the brackish waters of estuaries and is frequently associated with Saltwater Cordgrass. Look for its flowers between August and September.

Interesting Points

- Its Latin name is *chinensis* as it was mistakenly thought to have originated in China.
- The species is rare because it exists at the northern limit of its range, not because of human activity.
- First discovered in Nova Scotia by the renowned Harvard University botanist Merritt Fernald in 1920.



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Similar Species

Eastern *Lilaeopsis* can be distinguished from other mud-dwelling semi-aquatic plants, such as Mudwort (*Limosella australis*), by its blunt-ended leaves and tendency to occur in large patches.

Eastern *Lilaeopsis* does not form rosettes; its leaves attach to the rhizomatous stem individually.



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Mudwort



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Threats to Survival

- Habitat loss and degradation from shoreline development.
- Infilling of estuaries.
- Road building.

How You Can Help

Obtain appropriate provincial permits before infilling or altering salt marshes. For more information contact your NS DNR regional biologist and view “How you can Help” at www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora



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Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: NS DNR (902) 679-6091

Info: www.speciesatrisk.ca/coastalplainflora

Sighting Reports: 1-866-727-3447 or sightings@speciesatrisk.ca

Stewardship: Nova Scotia Nature Trust, www.nsnat.ca