

Tuberclcd Spike-rush

Eleocharis tuberculosa

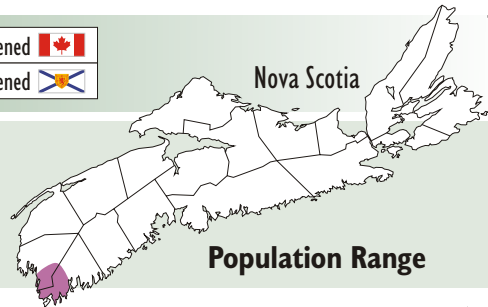
STATUS

Threatened 

Threatened 

75

Nova Scotia

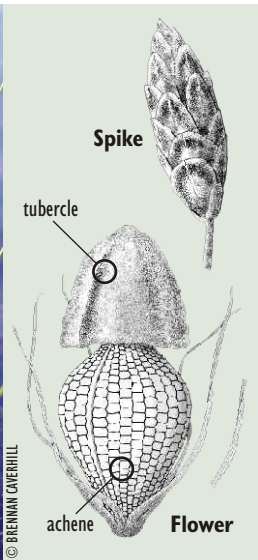


Population Range

Occurs on the shorelines of five lakes in Nova Scotia. It has an estimated population of 3000-4000 plants.

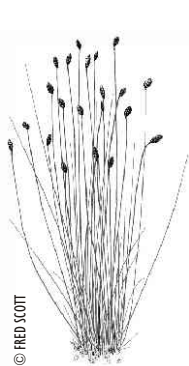
Habitat

Found on sandy or stony lakeshores and gravel bars, on the fringes of peat layers, and on the edges of peaty wetlands bordering lakes. It also occurs on floating vegetative mats.



Species Description

Tuberclcd Spike-rush has stiffly erect flattened stems that grow in dense clumps and reach a height of 10-40 cm. A distinct oval spike is present at the top of each stem and is composed of numerous tiny flowers, which develop into dry one-seeded fruits (achenes). The achene has an unusually large knob-like tubercle growing on top of it.



Tuberclcd Spike-rush is typically found on lakeshores and peat rich areas that receive full sunlight. Look for its flowers in August.

Interesting Points

- ACPF are able to survive in harsh environmental conditions (flooding, ice scouring), that other plant species find difficult to tolerate.
- Tubercles are often present because of symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationships between the plant and micro-organisms.

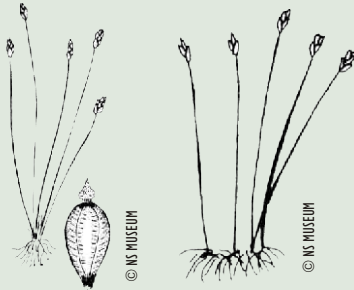


© RUTH NEWELL

Similar Species

There are at least 12 other spikerush species in Nova Scotia. They are typically distinguished by comparison of the fully mature achene, which requires a hand lens for viewing.

Tubercled Spike-rush has stiffly erect stems that arise from the same base. The tubercle is very large when compared to other species, and is the main distinguishing feature.



Eleocharis acicularis

Eleocharis parvula

© NS MUSEUM

© NS MUSEUM



Threats to Survival

- Cottage development and its associated activities, including shoreline alteration (dock building, mowing, raking, infilling, OHV use), land clearing & road building.
- Nutrient, sediment and pesticide runoff from cottages, forestry activities, and agricultural operations.



© NSNT

How You Can Help

Recognize and be aware of ACPF species and their habitat. Reduce shoreline disturbances (leave a natural vegetation buffer, do not drive OHVs along shorelines). Obtain permits from NS DEL and your municipality before altering the shoreline (dock building). Install and maintain septic systems and avoiding pesticide and fertilizer use.

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.nsnst.ca