

Water-pennywort

Hydrocotyle umbellata

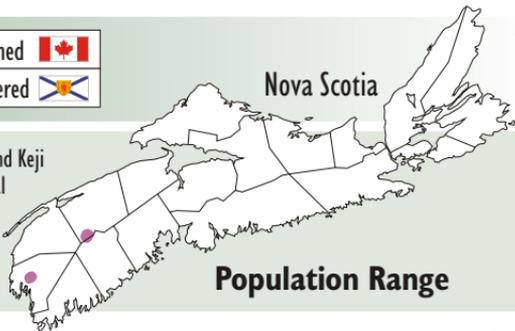
STATUS

Threatened 

Endangered 

67

Nova Scotia



Population Range

Occurs on Wilson's Lake and Keji Lake in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site - only found on these two lakes throughout Canada!

Habitat

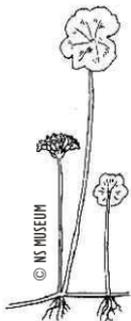
Sand or gravel lakeshores just above or below the waterline. It generally grows in substrates that are acidic and nutrient poor, in areas subjected to disturbances such as wind, ice scour and water fluctuations. Disturbances such as these are necessary to reduce competing vegetation.



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Species Description

Water-pennywort is a small plant that grows to a height of 10-30 cm. Petioles (leaf-stalks) attach to the slender stem that creeps along the substrate. Each leaf is 1-3 cm wide. Flowering is sporadic, but clusters of small white flowers can be observed on long peduncles that originate from the stem. Approximately 12 small flowers are found in each cluster.



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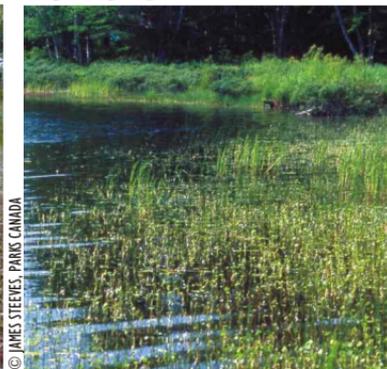


Flower cluster

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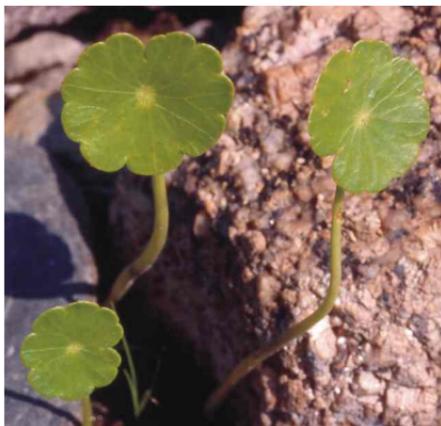


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Water-pennywort is found submerged or just above the water line along lakeshores. Look for its flowers between July and September.

Interesting Points

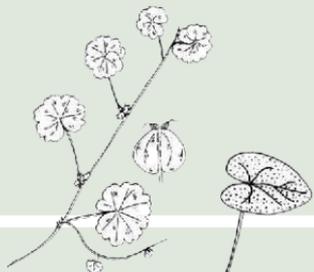
- Lakeshore ACPF species require fluctuating water levels; high water levels reduce competition and low water levels stimulate flowering.
- The Tusket River Nature Reserve on Wilson's Lake protects important habitat for this species, as well as other ACPF such as Pink Coreopsis and Plymouth Gentian.



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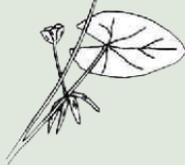
Similar Species

Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle americana*): Only other pennywort species in Nova Scotia; common throughout the province; more leaves but less erect and robust.



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Floating Heart (*Nymphoides cordata*): Found in similar habitat; heart shaped leaves (notched near stem); stem not erect when out of water (Water-pennywort has an erect stem).



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Threats to Survival

- Plants are accidentally trampled by canoeists and hikers inside Kejimikujik National Park.
- Outside the park, the greatest threat is cottage development and its associated activities, including shoreline alteration, land clearing and road building.



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How You Can Help

Inside the park, respect all signage and fences in Water-pennywort areas to avoid trampling. Outside the park, 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 (infilling, installing docks). Install and maintain septic systems and avoid using pesticides and fertilizers.



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Water-pennywort sign

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

Kejimikujik Area Stewardship Program, www.speciesatrisk.ca/stewardship