






# Van Brunt's Jacob's-ladder

*Polemonium vanbruntiae*

<b>STATUS</b>	Threatened 	Not Listed 
Threatened 	Not Listed 	Not Listed 



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## Species Description

Van Brunt's Jacob's-ladder is a tall (40-140 cm), upright perennial herb of the phlox family. Leaves are made up of 7-11 small (0.5-60 cm long) oval-shaped leaflets, and they range in size from large (50 cm long) at the base to small (2 cm long) near the flowers. Clustered, blue-violet flowers have five petals, and are about 1.5-2.5 cm wide. Sepals are 8-17 mm long and stamens and style project far beyond the petals.



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Endemic to central and northern Appalachians; found in just a few sites in southwestern New Brunswick.



## Habitat

Van Brunt's Jacobs-ladder lives in rich, seasonally-flooded moist areas such as riparian meadows, swamps, and other similar wet depressions. It requires open or semi-open conditions and is often found with cedar, alders, and grasses.



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Entire flowering plant



© JIM GOOLZ

Open, riparian meadow

Look for tall plants in rich, wet, open areas; its loose clusters of blue-violet flowers are present from about mid-June to early August.

## Interesting Points

- Van Brunt's Jacobs-ladder was first found in New Brunswick in 1880 but was thought to be extirpated until it was rediscovered in 2005.
- The species' common name comes from the Old Testament story of Jacob's ladder to heaven (referring to the ladder-like leaves) and from Cornelius Van Brunt, a 19th century naturalist.



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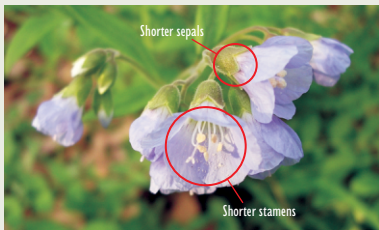
Compound leaves with toothless, oval leaflets

## Similar Species

### Cultivated species of Jacob's-ladder, including

*P. caeruleum* and *P. reptans*:

Generally found in urban settings; stamens and styles not projecting far beyond petals; sepals shorter (5-9 mm). Jacob's-ladder also tends to be shorter (15-50 cm) and not growing upright.



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Jacob's-ladder

### Common Valerian:

Leaflets with a toothed margin; flowers small, white or pinkish white, and in dense, rounded clusters; growing to 1.5 m high.



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Toothed leaves

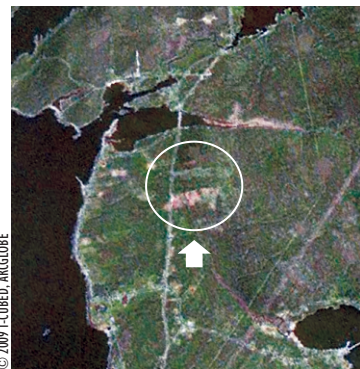


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White flowers

## Threats to Survival

- Residential or road development at or near sites where this species occurs.
- Habitat-altering timber harvesting and use of all-terrain vehicles can trample plants and affect site moisture and drainage.
- Natural habitat change affecting the very limited areas occupied, including beaver flooding and forest succession that increases habitat shading.



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Timber harvest in suitable wetland habitat

## How You Can Help

If you own property in southwest New Brunswick, keep a keen eye out for this plant and report any sightings to Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre or the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources. Follow guidelines on leaving riparian buffers on streams. Avoid using all-terrain vehicles in wet areas.



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Monitoring efforts

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** AC CDC (506) 364-2658, or NB DNR (506) 453-3826

**Info:** [www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca), [www.cosewic.gc.ca](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings)