

# Beach Pinweed

*Lechea maritima* var. *subcylindrica*

<b>STATUS</b>	Special Concern 	Not Listed 
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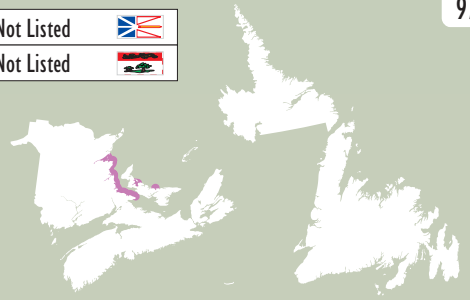


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Known from Atlantic coast from New Brunswick to North Carolina; Canadian population limited to eastern New Brunswick and northern PEI coasts.



## Habitat

Beach Pinweed lives in the open, dry habitat provided by large barrier dune systems. It requires stable and sheltered dune sections that receive infrequent storm overwash and often occurs in zones dominated by dwarf shrubs like Beach Heather. It can also survive on forested dunes, but this habitat is less ideal.



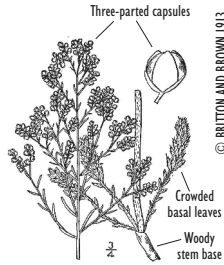
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## Species Description

Beach Pinweed is a low perennial herb with upright or leaning stems that are 20-35 cm long. Its stem is much branched with a woody base. Stem leaves are opposite or whorled, lance-shaped (5-25 mm long) with soft hairs underneath. Basal leaves are alternate and often crowded. Flowers are small (2-4 mm wide), reddish-brown and in a fairly dense, highly branched head. A three-parted, gray-brown capsule persists even after seeds are released. Seeds are small and smooth-surfaced.

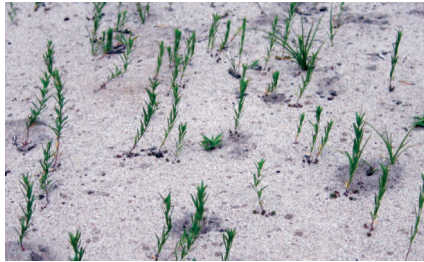


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This subspecies of Beach Pinweed only occurs discontinuously on sand dunes on about 40 km and 80 km of coastal shoreline in northern PEI and eastern New Brunswick, respectively.

## Interesting Points

- The Canadian population of Beach Pinweed is almost 400 km away from the nearest population further south in Maine!
- The Canadian population was described as a distinct variety (var *subcylindrica*) of the species that occurs nowhere else in the world.
- Its taproot can be up to 10 cm deep and helps it survive dry, sandy soil conditions.
- The relatively warm waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence have resulted in a number of more southern species that occur nowhere else in Canada having isolated populations in the region.



Young plants

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Mature plant with basal leaves and flowering stems

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## Similar Species

### Narrowleaf Pinweed (*Lechea intermedia*):

The underneath of basal leaves are only hairy along the midrib and outer edge, and the seeds are not smooth-surfaced; infrequent (but not entirely absent) on dunes.

## Threats to Survival

- Climate change causing loss of stabilized dunes through increased storms and sea level rise.
- Pedestrian and all-terrain vehicle use in sand dune habitat.
- Limited suitable habitat and potential loss of genetic diversity.
- Shrub and tree succession on dunes.

## How You Can Help

Avoid trampling dune vegetation and also be on the look-out for the endangered Piping Plover, which lives along some of the same beach and dune systems. Keep vehicles off of sensitive dune habitats, and avoid the removal of dune vegetation or the creation of breaches.



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Climate change threatens sensitive dune habitat



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Off-highway vehicle use



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Monitoring in Kouchibouguac National Park

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** AC CDC (506) 364-2658, or NB DNR (506) 453-3826, PEI FFW (902) 368-6450

**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)