



Broom Crowberry

Corema conradii

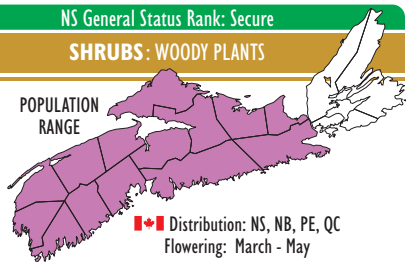
NS General Status Rank: Secure

SHRUBS : WOODY PLANTS



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POPULATION
RANGE



■ Distribution: NS, NB, PE, QC
Flowering: March - May

SIZE: Up to 50 cm tall and 2 m wide.
LEAVES: Long and narrow (linear), no clear middle line on the undersides, and 3-6 mm long. They turn reddish brown in the winter.

STEM: Brown, woody, branched, and slender. The branching pattern is distinctive, with many branches coming off near the same point creating a multiple circular (whorled) appearance.

FLOWERS: In clusters at the ends of branches. Petals are absent. Male flowers are purplish and have 3-4 anthers with long stalks (filaments). Female flowers are small, brownish red and with 2-9 protruding stigmas.

FRUITS: Dry, 3-seeded fleshy berry-like fruits (drupes), 1.5 mm wide.

NOTES: This species is dioecious, which means that it has only male or only female flowers on an individual plant. It is a low growing, heather-like shrub.



Female flowers

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Flower bud

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Woody branches

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Fruit

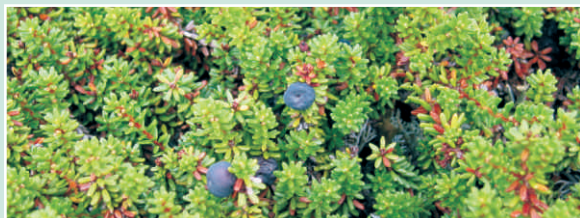
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Habitat:

Dry barrens on sandy or rocky soils; often on rock outcrops along lakeshores.

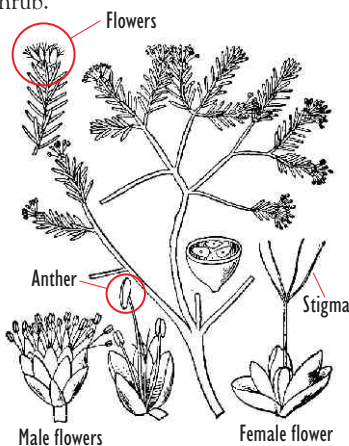
Interesting point: This species is linked to habitats historically associated with fire.

Similar species: Golden Heather (*Hudsonia ericooides*, page 52) has solitary yellow flowers and soft hairs on the stem and leaves. Black Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) has spreading stems up to 40 cm long, needle-like leaves with a deep middle line underneath, purplish flowers where the leaf attaches to the stem, and dark black fruits.



Black Crowberry

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Male flowers

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