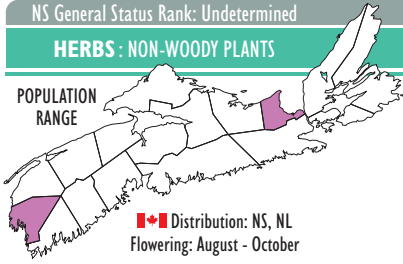


POPULATION RANGE



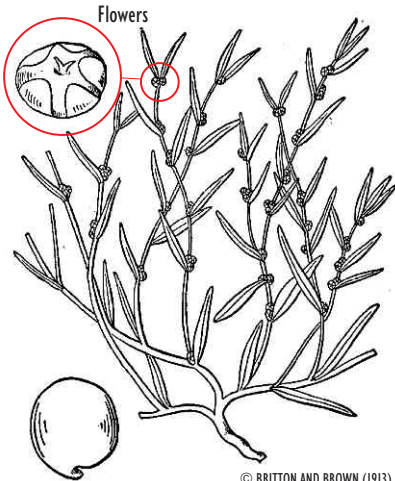
**SIZE:** Stems 10-50 cm in length, reclining and usually forming mats on the ground.

**LEAVES:** Numerous, pale green, soft and thick (fleshy), round or flat with the smaller ones sometimes cone-shaped. They are arranged alternately along the stem, are typically 1-5 cm long and gradually reduce to 5 mm near the tip of the stem.

**STEM:** Straight, smooth, green, typically trailing on the ground and mat-forming.

**FLOWERS:** Flowers are composed of 5 green petal-like modified leaves (sepals) and clustered in groups of 1 to 4 where leaves meet the stem (axils). The sepals are curved inwards, all of equal length, smooth and rounded, without horns or hood-like projections.

**FRUITS:** Round seeds, 1-1.5 mm wide, that are reddish-brown or black.



**Habitat:**

Salt marshes and saline mudflats. This species is difficult to distinguish from ssp. *maritima* which has led to uncertainties surrounding its distribution. It likely has a scattered range in salt marshes along the NS coast.

**Interesting point:** Sea-Blites are halophytic, meaning they are able to grow in salty environments. They are among the first species to colonize bare sand following storm disturbance.

**Similar species:**

Can be difficult to distinguish from other more common Sea-Blite species.

Maritime Sea-Blite (*Suaeda maritima* ssp. *maritima*) is very similar. It generally has larger leaves (10-30 mm long) and larger seeds (1.5 to 2 mm wide). American Sea-Blite (*Suaeda calceoliformis*) has sepals that are unequal in size and often bear horns or hood-like projections.

