

Tall Beakrush

Rhynchospora macrostachya

NS General Status Rank: At Risk

GRASS-LIKE : GRAMINOIDS



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Spikelets

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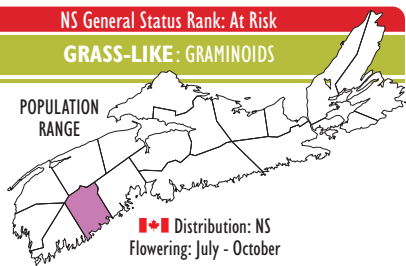


Growing along the lakeshore



David by Tall Beakrush

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**SIZE:** 0.5-2 m tall.**LEAVES:** Flat and 1 cm wide.**STEM:** Green, three-sided, slender and erect, with one or a few per plant.**FLOWERS:** 15-20 mm long spikelets which grow in a cluster at the tip of the stem. The scales on the spikelet are light brown and lance-shaped.**FRUITS:** Dry, flat, oval and within the upper scales of the spikelet. They have a long beak on one end and three bristles on each side which extend past the main part of the seed.**NOTES:**

Currently this species is known to occur on only one lake in NS (and Canada!).

**Habitat:**

Wet and exposed sandy or mucky lakeshores.

Interesting point: This species was discovered in NS (and Canada) for the first time in 2009 by botanists David Mazerolle and Sean Basquill, and identified by Sean Blaney.**Similar species:** Brownish Beakrush (*Rhynchospora fusca*) is shorter (15-40 cm tall) and has smaller spikelets (4-6 mm long). Tall Beakrush is a very distinctive species that looks like a gigantic Brownish Beakrush plant. Since it is much larger it can be easily identified.