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## Maine Natural Areas Program

### Agalinis maritima (Raf.) Raf.

#### Saltmarsh False-foxglove

- [State Rank](#): S3
- [Global Rank](#): G5
- [State Status](#): Special Concern

**Habitat:** Saltmarshes. [Tidal wetland (non-forested, wetland)]

**Range:** Confined to saltmarshes of the Atlantic coast from Maine southward to Florida.

**Aids to Identification:** Like its more common relative purple gerardia (*A. paupercula*), the plant has five-petaled, bell-shaped flowers borne erect at the tips of the branched stems. Saltmarsh false-foxglove may be distinguished by its distinct preference for saltmarshes and by its leaves, which are thick and succulent, linear in shape and about 2-3 cm long. As it grows less than 40 cm high, it is often almost concealed by the surrounding vegetation.



**Ecological characteristics:** Can occur in large populations in intact saltmarshes. Maine populations are represented by *A. maritima* var. *maritima*.

**Phenology:** Flowers in late summer.

**Family:** Orobanchaceae

**Synonyms:** *Gerardia maritima* Raf.

**Known Distribution in Maine:** This rare plant has been documented from a total of 17 towns in the following counties: Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Washington, York.

**Reason(s) for rarity:** Reaches its northern range limit in southern Maine.

**Conservation considerations:** This plant persists well

as long as the natural hydrology of its saltmarsh habitat is maintained.



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