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Houstonia longifolia Gaertn.

Long-leaved Bluet

- [State Rank](#): S2S3
- [Global Rank](#): G4G5TNR
- [State Status](#): Special Concern

Habitat: Slaty ledges or rivershore gravels, not strongly acidic. [Non-tidal rivershore (non-forested, seasonally wet)].

Range: Maine to Saskatchewan, south to Georgia, Oklahoma.

Aids to Identification: Bluets are small, slender plants with opposite stem leaves, small 4-petaled flowers, and inferior ovaries. The common bluet, *Houstonia caerulea*, found growing on lawns, has flowers that have a yellow center and horizontally spreading corolla lobes. *Houstonia longifolia* has uniform colored white to pale blue flowers and ascending corolla lobes and occurs in different habitats.

Ecological characteristics: Usually found growing in slight cracks or depressions on rivershore ledges. Maine populations although apparently persistent are not large and the plants tend to be small.



Phenology:

Herbaceous perennial, flowers July - September.

Family:

Synonyms: *Hedyotis longifolia* (Gaertn.) Hook.; *Hedyotis longifolia* (Gaertn.) Hook. var. *tenuifolia* (Nutt.) Torr. & Gray; *Hedyotis purpurea* (L.) Torr. & Gray var. *longifolia* (Gaertn.) Fosberg; *Houstonia longifolia* Gaertn. var. *glabra* Terrell; *Houstonia longifolia* Gaertn. var. *tenuifolia* (Nutt.) Wood; *Houstonia tenuifolia* Nutt.; *Oldenlandia purpurea* (L.) Gray var. *tenuifolia* (Nutt.) Gray ex Chapman.

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 24 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, Kennebec, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset.

Reason(s) for rarity: Habitat naturally scarce, at northern limit of range.

Conservation considerations: Known populations are small, but the plant seems to persist on the few river ledges where it grows. Heavy recreational use of ledges could pose problems.

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