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# Maine Natural Areas Program

## Lonicera oblongifolia (Goldie) Hook.

### Swamp Honeysuckle

- State Rank: S3
- Global Rank: G4
- State Status: Special Concern

**Habitat:** Bogs, swampy thickets and wet woods. [Forested wetland; Open wetland, not coastal nor rivershore (non-forested, wetland)]

**Range:** New Brunswick and Quebec to Manitoba, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Minnesota.

**Aids to Identification:** Swamp fly-honeysuckle is a shrub that grows up to 1.5 m high with upward pointing branches covered with small hairs and opposite oval leaves 2-5 cm in length. The flowers, borne in pairs, are yellow, two-lipped, and narrow. The fleshy red berries also occur in pairs. The only other honeysuckle that is found in similar communities is *Lonicera villosa*, the mountain fly honeysuckle. It is distinguished by its blue berries and winter buds covered by 2 valvate scales (vs. several imbricate scales).



**Ecological characteristics:** Because of the specific habitat requirements of swamp fly-honeysuckle -- open areas of cool cedar swamps underlain by limestone -- it is not widespread, but populations may be plentiful where it does occur.

**Phenology:** Flowers May - June.

**Family:** Caprifoliaceae


**Synonyms:** *Lonicera oblongifolia* (Goldie) Hook. var. *altissima* (Jennings) Rehd.

**Known Distribution in Maine:** This rare plant has been documented from a total of 44 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington.

**Reason(s) for rarity:** Specific habitat requirements.

**Conservation considerations:** Appears reasonably secure; known populations are persistent.

Credits





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