About MNAP
Focus Areas
Communities, Plants and Animals
Natural Communities and Ecosystems
Rare Plants
Invasive Plants
Ecological Inventory and Monitoring
Rare Animals
State and Global Rarity Ranks
Survey Forms
Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
Ecological Reserves

Maine Natural Areas Program

Lonicera dioica L.

Mountain Honeysuckle

- State Rank: S2
- Global Rank: G5
- State Status: Endangered

Habitat: Rocky banks, dry woods and thickets. [Dry barrens (partly forested, upland); Hardwood to mixed forest (forest, upland); Forested wetland]

Range: Southern Maine and southwestern Quebec to Manitoba, south to Georgia and west to Missouri.

Aids to Identification: *Lonicera dioica* is a vining honeysuckle with opposite elliptic leaves which are distinctively whitened beneath. The top 1-4 pairs of leaves are joined at their bases, appearing like one leaf pierced by the stem. The flowers, which can be variously colored, have the typical "honeysuckle" shape, i.e. they are definitely two-lipped (compare the other native vining honeysuckle in Maine, *L. sempervirens*, which has five-petalled almost regular flowers; it too is rare here). The only other vining honeysuckle in Maine is Japanese honeysuckle, *L. japonica*. This species occasionally occurs in Maine and is common and pesty southward and differs in having egg-shaped rather than elliptic leaves which have a definite though short stalk at the base and paired flowers (the flowers of *L. dioica* are borne in threes).

Ecological characteristics: The mountain honeysuckle has not been observed in detail in Maine, so ecological relationships here are not well known.

Phenology: Flowers May to July; fruits July to September.

Family: Caprifoliaceae

Synonyms: *Lonicera dioica* L. var. *glaucescens* (Rydb.) Butters; *Lonicera glaucescens* (Rydb.) Rydb.

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 9 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, Kennebec, Sagadahoc, York.

Reason(s) for rarity: At northern limit of range; not rare south of Maine.

Conservation considerations: Some of the mountain honeysuckle's habitat may have been lost. This plant is restricted to statewide southern Maine, and known populations are vulnerable to conversion of their habitat to residential or commercial use. Such conversion is believed to be partly responsible for its rarity in Maine.

Credits

Copyright © 2013
All rights reserved.

Information

Maine.gov
Site Policies
Accessibility
Comments/Questions
Jobs @ DACF
Grants & Loans
Educational Resources

Connect with Us

Facebook
Twitter
YouTube
Email/SMS Updates
Event & Meeting Calendar
See more social media...

Support DACF Programs

Maine State Park Passes
Volunteer
Specialty License Plates
Outdoor Heritage Fund Lottery Ticket
Donations
See more choices...

Contact

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, ME 04333
More Locations

Phone: (207) 287-3200
Fax: (207) 287-2400
TTY: Maine Relay 711
DACF@Maine.gov