

Rattlesnakeroot

(*Prenanthes racemosa*)

- It is a perennial plant, which is a member of the Composite (Aster) family.
- It has a tuberous root, an erect stem up to 1.5 m high, and secretes a milky juice. The leaves are widest near the end and have small teeth.
- The flower heads are arranged in elongate clusters and are often drooping, with the flowers being pink, purplish or white. The fruit is similar to that of a dandelion with a creamy coloured parachute.



Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

The only known location for this species in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is a fen at Wild Cove, near Corner Brook.

Population Trends

The total population is estimated at several hundred to several thousand individuals. Trends in the population are unknown but the population has possibly declined during some development in the area.

Limiting Factors and Threats

Distribution is very restricted and population numbers are low. The habitat is within a municipal boundary and is surrounded by gravel pits and other development.

Special Significance

In Newfoundland, rattlesnakeroot is found only in one restricted area. The species is also considered rare in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

You can help protect rattlesnakeroot:

- Stop habitat destruction by keeping all-terrain vehicles off of sensitive habitats like bogs and fens.
- Support stewardship activities, such as clean-ups, in your area.

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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