

Water Pygmyweed

(*Tillaea aquatica*)

- Water Pygmyweed is a very tiny, amphibious, halophilic ("salt-loving") annual.
- It grows in mats that range from reddish to greenish in colour.
- It has tiny white flowers arranged in groups of four and succulent leaves.



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Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Water Pygmyweed is generally found in sandy margins of fresh to brackish vernal or intermittent pools, riverbanks, brackish mudflats, and tidal shores. Within the Province it is known to six populations, all of which are found on the Burin and Avalon Peninsulas. It is also found in New Brunswick, Québec, and the Northwest Territories, as well as the United States, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Iceland, and Russia.

Population Trends

This species appears to be abundant as an estimated 700,000 mature individuals exist in the province. However, these individuals are extremely tiny, grow in very small dense clumps and are therefore very vulnerable to disturbance.

Limiting Factors and Threats

The populations themselves appear to be stable but are extremely susceptible to disturbance from off-road vehicles, site modification, and construction.

Special Significance

Water Pygmyweed is a part of Newfoundland and Labrador's biodiversity.

You can help protect the Water Pygmyweed:

- Support habitat protection for all our rare species.
- Stop habitat destruction by keeping all-terrain vehicles off of sensitive habitats like bogs, fens, beaches, and riverbanks.

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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