



Maine Department of Conservation  
Natural Areas Program

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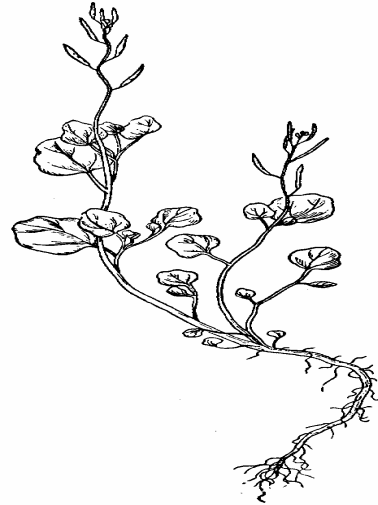
*Cardamine longii* Fern.

**Long's Bitter-cess**

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- Habitat:** Tidal estuary. [Tidal wetland (non-forested, wetland)]
- Range:** Local, along the coastal plain, from Maine to Virginia.
- Phenology:** Flowers June - September.
- Family:** Brassicaceae



**Aids to Identification:** Saltmarsh bitter-cess is a weak-stemmed herb growing from fibrous roots to a height of 10-30 cm. All the leaves grow on leaf-stalks, the flowers have no petals, and the fruits are divergent. This species is easily distinguished from the similar Alpine bitter-cess (*C. bellidifolia*) by the difference in habitat.

**Ecological characteristics:** In Maine this species typically grows on sandy muck and cobbles.

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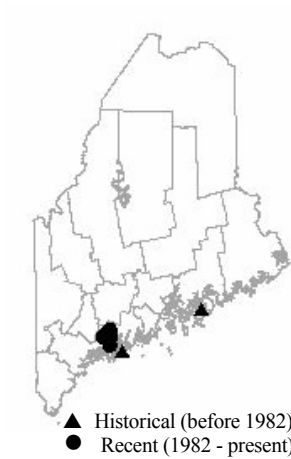
**Synonyms:**

**Rarity of *Cardamine longii***

<b>State Rank:</b>	S2	Imperiled in Maine because of rarity or vulnerability to further decline.
<b>New England Rank:</b>	Division 1	Globally rare plant occurring in New England: Only a few occurrences exist within New England.
<b>Global Rank:</b>	G3Q	Rare or uncommon globally (questionable taxonomy).

**Status of *Cardamine longii***

<b>Federal Status:</b>	None	No Federal Status.
<b>State Status:</b>	Threatened	
<b>Proposed State Status:</b>	Threatened	Rare and, with further decline, could become endangered; or federally listed as Threatened. Listing criteria met: Special habitat, At edge of range, Vulnerable to human activity



### Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 7 towns in the following counties: Hancock, Lincoln, Sagadahoc.

**Dates of documented observations are:** 1890, 1921, 1925, 1979, 1981, 1984 (2), 1985 (3), 1986, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 (2), 1998 (2), 1999, 2000, 2002.

### Reason(s) for rarity:

Scarce throughout its range.

### Conservation considerations:

Prevent degradation of marsh and estuary habitat from adjacent land uses.

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The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 29 APR 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species, please contact the Natural Areas Program  
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

