



***Draba glabella* Pursh.**
Smooth Whitlow-Grass

- Habitat:** Calcareous outcrops, cliffs, and talus, often adjacent to water.
- Range:** Circumboreal south to Maine, New York, and Vermont.
- Phenology:** Flowering June through August.
- Family:** Brassicaceae

Aids to Identification: Smooth whitlow-grass appears very similar to rock whitlow-grass: *Draba arabisans* (ranked S1 in ME; see image on right). Both grow in tufts and form mats in similar habitats and have lanceolate-spatulate basal leaves 2-10 mm wide. The leaves are covered with stellate pubescence on both sides. Both have white, 4-petaled flowers in elongate clusters on the stems. *Draba glabella* can be distinguished from *D. arabisans* by its stalked stellate hairs on the underside of the leaves (opposed to sessile stellate hairs in *D. arabisans*). Also, the fruits are usually flat in *D. glabella* whereas they are twisted in *D. arabisans*.



Illustration from Britton & Brown's
Illustrated Flora of the Northern United
States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Ecological characteristics: Found at only one site in Maine on exposed rock near the shores of a large lake.

Synonyms: Formerly known as *Draba daurica* DC, *Draba canadensis* Schlect., *Draba canadensis* Brunet, *Draba megasperma* Fern. and Knowl.

Rarity of *Draba glabella*

- State Rank:** S1 Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.
- New England Rank:** Division 2 Regionally rare plant. Fewer than 20 occurrences in New England.
- Global Rank:** G4G5 Species is widespread, abundant, and apparently secure globally, but possibly with cause for long term concern.

Status of *Draba glabella*

- Federal Status:** None No Federal Status.
- State Status:** Special Concern
- Proposed State Status:** Special Concern Rare based on available information but not sufficiently rare to be considered Threatened or Endangered.



- ▲ Historical (before 1982)
- Recent (1982 to present)

Know Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 1 town in the following county: Piscataquis.

Dates of documented observations are: 1871, 1986, 1992, 2002

Reasons for rarity:

At southern edge of range, calcareous habitat is naturally scarce in Maine.

Conservation considerations:

The population in Maine is not easily accessible. The only threats would be natural threats such as rock falls or ice scour.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biodiversity Tracking System on 20 Apr 2004. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998) and *Flora Novae Angliae* Tracheophyte Checklist (2004) available at: http://arthur_haines.tripod.com/checklist.htm. 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, threatened, and endangered plants and natural communities, and is a member of the Association of 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

