



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Arabis laevigata (Muhl. ex Willd.) Poir.

Smooth Rockcress

Habitat: Rich woods and slopes or shaded ledges.
[Rocky summits and outcrops (non-forested, upland); Hardwood to mixed forest (forest, upland)]

Range: Southwest Quebec to Colorado, south to Georgia and west to Oklahoma.

Phenology: Flowers April - June.

Family: Brassicaceae

Aids to Identification: Smooth rockcress grows to 1 m in height with pods 8-10 cm long spreading horizontally. The flowers are greenish white or white, 0.5 cm or less wide. The glaucous stem and clasping, auricled leaves differentiate it from similar species.

Ecological characteristics: Known to occur in Maine on xeric to moist circumneutral cliff faces, ledges and talus slopes.

Synonyms: Known as *Boechea laevigata* (Muhl. ex. Willd.) Al-Shehbaz and formerly *Turritis laevigata* Muhl. ex Willd.

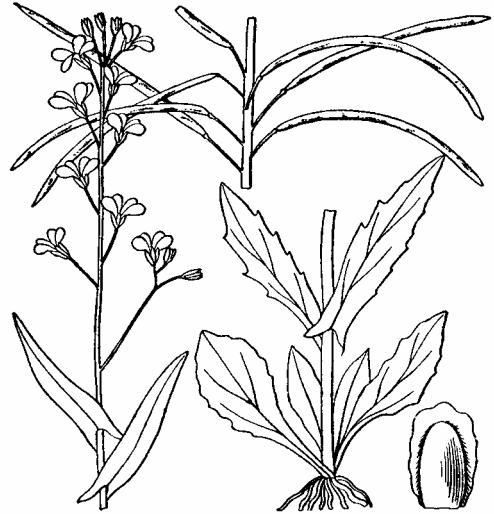


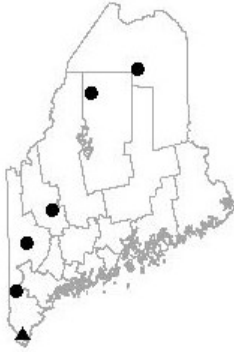
Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Rarity of *Arabis laevigata*

State Rank:	S1	Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.
New England Rank:	Division 3:ME	Locally rare plant. Rare in Maine, not rare in other New England states.
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Arabis laevigata*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Threatened	
Proposed State Status:	Threatened	Rare and, with further decline, could become endangered; or federally listed as Threatened. Listing criteria met: Special habitat

Known Distribution in Maine:

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

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 6 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Franklin, Oxford, Piscataquis, York.

Dates of documented observations are: 1896, 1984, 1990 (2), 1993, 2000

Reason(s) for rarity:

Near edge of range; habitat is naturally scarce.

Conservation considerations:

These plants typically grow on ledges in forested areas; the effects of logging in the surrounding woods is unknown. Partial removal of the canopy could mimic natural conditions since ledge habitats are frequently semi-open themselves.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 11 MAY 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.

