



Maine Department of Conservation  
Natural Areas Program

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*Bartonia paniculata* (Michx.) Muhl.

**Screwstem**

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- Habitat:** Wet peat and sand. [Coastal non-tidal wetland (non-forested, wetland)]
- Range:** Florida to Louisiana, north to southern New England and Nova Scotia, west through southern New York to Okalahoma.
- Phenology:** Flowers August to October. Tiny dust-like seeds are scattered in the wind in early autumn.
- Family:** Gentianaceae

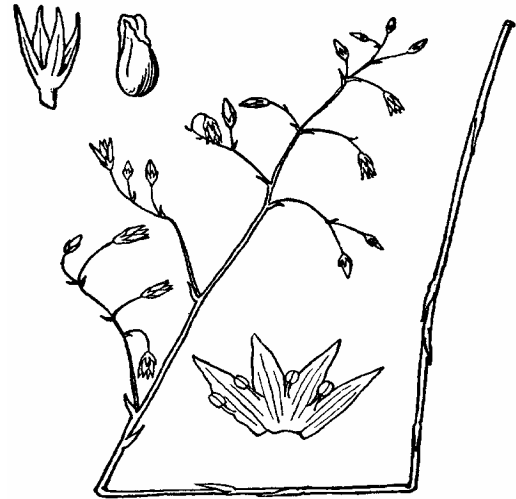


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

**Aids to Identification:** The species is readily distinguished from *Bartonia virginica* (L.) BSP by alternate (rather than opposite) leaves below the inflorescence and a calyx that is cleft from 2/3 to nearly the base vs. lobed for *B. virginica*.

**Ecological characteristics:** Plants may be parasitic or hemiparasitic on the roots of other plants or trees.

**Synonyms:** Both the nominate subspecies and the subspecies *iodandra* (B.L. Robins.) J. Gillett are rare.

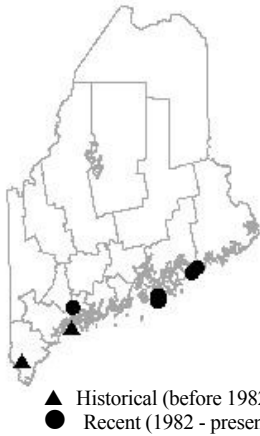
**Rarity of *Bartonia paniculata***

<b>State Rank:</b>	S1	Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.
<b>New England Rank:</b>	None	
<b>Global Rank:</b>	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

**Status of *Bartonia paniculata***

<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: Few individuals, Special habitat, At edge of range

### Known Distribution in Maine:



This rare plant has been documented from a total of 6 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Sagadahoc, York.

**Dates of documented observations are:** 1893, 1917, 1990 (4), 1991 (8), 1998, 2001

### Reason(s) for rarity:

Typical variety at northern limit of range in Maine; subspecies *iodandra* disjunct from main population.

### Conservation considerations:

Little is known about this species's population biology. Maintaining the natural hydrology of the wetlands in which it occurs is prudent.

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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.

