



Maine Department of Conservation  
Natural Areas Program

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*Eurybia divaricata* (L.) Nesom

**White Wood Aster**

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- Habitat:** Dry woods and clearings. [Hardwood to mixed forest (forest, upland)]
- Range:** Southern Maine to Ohio, south to Georgia, and west to Tennessee.
- Phenology:** Flowers September - October.
- Family:** Asteraceae

**Aids to Identification:** White wood aster has a flattish cluster of white flowers, each 2-3 cm wide. The lower stem leaves are heart-shaped with coarse teeth, and the plant ranges from 0.3-1 m in height. It is distinguished from similar species by the lack of glandular hairs on the flower heads, and the absence of sterile leaf tufts.

**Ecological characteristics:** In Maine this species grows in well-drained, open, mixed woods.

**Synonyms:** Also known as *Aster divaricatus*



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

**Rarity of *Eurybia divaricata***

- State Rank:** S3 Rare in Maine
- New England Rank:** None
- Global Rank:** G5 Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

**Status of *Eurybia divaricata***

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

### Known Distribution in Maine:



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

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 12 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, York.

**Dates of documented observations are:** 1922, 1958, 1983, 1985, 1993 (2), 1995, 1996 (6), 1998 (3), 1999 (2), 2000 (5), 2001 (4), 2002 (2)

### Reason(s) for rarity:

At northern limit of range, not rare southward.

### Conservation considerations:

This plant is restricted statewide to southern Maine. Populations are vulnerable to conversion of their habitat to residential or commercial use, and several occur near roads where they could be affected by road maintenance activities.

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The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 05 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.

