

# Sarracenia

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Fall 2002

Newsletter of the Wildflower Society of Newfoundland and Labrador  
c/o Botanical Garden, Memorial University, St John's, NL, Canada, A1C 5S7.

Articles from members would be most welcomed and may be sent via email to [tboland@nfld.com](mailto:tboland@nfld.com) or via regular mail to:

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## 2002-03 Executive

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Carmel Conway	Treasurer	722-0121
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## Fall Program:

### Nov. 6: Summer Field Trips, Revisited

This meeting will be an opportunity for members to share slides/photos from this past summers field trips. If you have any, please bring them along.

**Dec. 4:** Luise Hermanutz:- "**Wildflowers of Western Australia - Global Hotspot of Biodiversity.**" Based on Luise's recent sabbatical in those parts.

### Dec. ?: Annual Christmas Party

Place, date, & time: TBA

As with last year's Christmas Party, we will again share the party with the Natural History Society. Please bring along goodies to help make the party a success.

Note: the regular November meeting will take place at the Memorial University Botanical Gardens, beginning at 8:00 pm. Due to renovations at the garden we may have to find a different location for the December meeting.

## President's Message: A Note About Subscriptions

The executive have been aware for some time that our membership lists have got into a bit of a muddle; members were not being reminded that their subscriptions were due, and we have been sending out Sarracenia's to people who have not paid up for some time. I hope that all new members have been receiving theirs. In order to simplify the membership secretary and treasurer's job we decided to adopt a fixed subscription year. We proposed the following motions, which were passed, at the last Annual General Meeting. A table indicating the amount to be paid to regularise subscriptions this year will be found at the end of the motions. It may seem a bit complicated, but from September 2003 on all subscriptions will be due on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and should be paid by the end of the year if you want to continue as a member.

At our first meeting of the year, the executive decided to have an amnesty for anyone who was overdue, so you can renew for just \$10 (the cheapest Society membership I know of), but of course we should be happy to accept a larger amount for anyone who wishes to pay their arrears. For members who are not up to date a separate slip will be included with this copy of Sarracenia indicating when your membership expired and the amount due to renew your membership until August 31<sup>st</sup> 2003. We have also noticed that several members' addresses are not up to date or otherwise inaccurate. Please check the address label and let us know of any corrections. (We will be adopting the new "NL" abbreviation for

the province automatically, and hope that not too many copies will end up in Holland!)

Motions passed at the last AGM.

1. That the annual subscription remain at \$10 per person or family receiving a single copy of Sarracenia.
2. That subscription renewals are due on 1<sup>st</sup> September each year for membership until the following August 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. That initial subscriptions for new members shall be \$10 for a member joining between May 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> and \$15 between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. This initial membership shall run until August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
4. That members who have not renewed their subscriptions by December 31<sup>st</sup> be deemed to have resigned from the society. Membership can be revived by paying the full amount due.
5. That, in order to bring everyone to the renewal date of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2002, the amount due on this date for membership until August 31<sup>st</sup> 2003 shall be calculated from the date of the last payment as follows:

\$10 for each full year or period of 10 or 11 months (including September 2002 - August 2003) and/or \$1 per month for a period of less than 10 months, calculated from the first day of the month in which the subscription was paid.

E.g. A member who last paid \$10 in January 2002 would pay \$8 and one who last paid in June 2001 would pay \$13. A new member joining between May 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> would pay \$10.

Members will be notified individually of the amount due in the next issue of Sarracenia.

Membership expiry	Renewal Amount
September 2002	\$10.00
October 2002	\$10.00

November 2002	\$10.00
December 2002	\$9.00
January 2003	\$8.00
February 2003	\$7.00
March 2003	\$6.00
April 2003	\$5.00
May 2003	\$4.00
June 2003	\$3.00
July 2003	\$2.00
August 2003	\$1.00

Add \$10 for each overdue year (forgiven under the amnesty, see above). Members whose membership expires during the year may like to add another \$10 to extend their membership to August 31 2004.

Any questions about this scheme should be addressed to the President, who thought it up!

### Next Summer's Main Field Trip

As usual, during our excellent dinner at Jackie Tan's restaurant at the end of this year's trip, we discussed where to go next year. The most popular suggestion was that we should cross the Straights of Belle Isle again and take advantage of the fact that there's a good, albeit unpaved, road up as far as Cartwright. I am informed that there is plenty of accommodation up there as long as we book early. We should also visit Battle Harbour, a restored historic community, it is likely that they would like us to list the plants of the Island (see <http://www.battleharbour.com/>). Such a trip should probably be fairly late in the year, sometime in August. Pat Chalmers from Halifax suggested that some members of the

N.S. Wild Flora Society might also be interested in joining us. The disadvantages of this proposal in addition to the blackflies are that accommodation is likely to be a little more expensive than on the Island and that the time to travel back and forth for St John's residents could add a couple of days to the trip. If you have views on this please let me know, particularly if you would be interested in going on this trip. If it goes ahead we would arrange more weekend field trips next year for those who are unable to go on the long trip.

Howard.

### Which is Which?

By Todd Boland

There are several genera of wildflowers in the Province that have only 2 or 3 representative species. Sometimes distinguishing between them is relatively easy; such is the case with our three native *Cypripedium*. Most wildflower enthusiasts can distinguish between the pink lady's-slipper (*C. acaule*), the yellow lady's-slipper (*C. parviflorum*) and the showy lady's-slipper (*C. reginae*). However, there are many paired or triplet species that are much harder to discern. It was suggested we have a series of articles explaining how to differentiate between such similar species, so here goes.

I thought it best to start with two species pairs that are relatively common across the Island. The first pair is *Iris setosa* (Beach-head Iris) vs. *Iris versicolor* (Blue Flag Iris). Both of these native *Iris* have blue flowers and generally grow in damp environments. So how can you tell them apart? First we will look at their preferred habitats. The Beach-head Iris (*I. setosa*), as the name implies, grows near the ocean. In fact, I've never seen it anywhere else

except within sight of the sea. There, it grows in damp peaty to sandy-peaty soil. The Blue Flag (*I. versicolor*) usually grows in marshes, swamps, streambanks and other damp habitats. It is common inland and in fact, any 'blue' iris seen inland will likely be the Blue Flag. However, the Blue Flag can also grow near the sea in the same habitat as the Beach-head...that's where ID problems arise.

What about plant stature? The Beach-head is generally a short plant with an average height of 30 cm or less. The Blue Flag is a much taller plant, reaching 60-90 cm. Again, this is not always a fixed characteristic: Blue Flags growing in exposed locations are often much shorter in stature, even less than 30 cm. Beach-head iris in sheltered locations may reach 50 cm. Where the two overlap, you may find both species at the same height.

What about flower size and colour? Both have 7-11 cm flowers. Beach-head iris are porcelain blue; blue flag generally a deep blue-violet, but some blue flags can be paler and closer in colour to the beach-head.

This is not sounding any easier. Not to worry...if you find a plant with flowers, there is a sure-fire way to distinguish the two. Iris flowers have three sepals (the falls) and three petals (the standards). The sepals in both species are large, broad and angle downwards (hence the term 'falls'). The standards are narrow and erect. In blue flags the standard is around 3 cm long, 1-2 cm wide and quite noticeable. The beach-head's standards are very minute (1-2 cm) and practically reduced to just a bristle that is hardly noticeable at all.

If no flowers are present but seed capsules are, then again they can be differentiated. The seed capsule of blue flag

is generally 3-6 cm long, clearly three-sided and have a distinctive beak or tip at the end. The capsules of beach-head iris are more rounded, 2-4 cm with no beak at the end.

The second species pair is *Rosa nitida* (the swamp or northeastern wild rose) vs. *Rosa virginiana* (the Virginia wild rose). These two species are our only native roses although *Rosa rugosa* and *R. multiflora* are garden escapes sometimes encountered in wild places.

So how to separate our two native roses. Actually it is fairly simple. However, let us first look at habitat. As the name implies, the swamp rose grows in wet places, primarily the edges of peatlands, streams, ponds and wet ditches (coincidentally, often in association with Blue Flags) but may also grow along gravel roadsides. The Virginian rose mostly prefers drier habitats such as old fields, barrens and rocky slopes but will also grow in damp thickets and margins of swamps or shorelines. Obviously, habitat is not a reliable separator.

So what about overall plant size? The swamp rose is generally the shorter of the two, but both may range between 20 and 175 cm. The flowers of both are pink and fragrant (although the swamp is more fragrant and slightly deeper pink). The swamp rose blooms are 4-6 cm broad while those of Virginian 5-7 (so flower size not reliable). Swamp rose has 7-9 leaflets per leaf; Virginian 5-11, so counting leaflets may or may not separate the two. Looking closer at the leaves, the serrations on the swamp rose extend from the base of the leaflets to the tip. On Virginian rose, the serrations are on the outer 3/4 of the leaflets; i.e. the serrations do not extend to the base. Another subtle difference is the fact that the leaves of swamp rose are generally shinier than those of Virginian rose.

However, the clincher is to look at the stems. The current season stems of swamp rose are smothered in thousands of fine bristles, along

with the scattered more typical rose thorns. Virginian rose have mostly just typical rose thorns (referred to in botanical terms as 'prickles'). So a look at the stems and the serration on the leaflets are the two characteristics that will reliably separate the swamp rose from the Virginian.

The bottom line is that for these two species pairs, you do not need to be a PhD candidate in botany to correctly identify which is which. With just a little observation and botanical basics, the amateur can do a fine job in wildflower identification (if only ALL wildflowers could be identified as easily as the previous ones!)

## Recollections of a Trip to Baccalieu

by Glenda Quinn

Imagine yourself on an small, rocky island (population 2 light keepers) at the mouths of Trinity and Conception Bay on a sunny afternoon in July surrounded by thousands of puffins- that was me last July! Standing alone on the cliff top, blue sky overhead, blue water below, suspended, and all these little birds with their bright orange feet, swirling, diving, careening, looping, soaring, flapping furiously above me, below me, in front of me. It was a moment in time worth crystalizing.

My trip to Baccalieu Island was a day to remember, not just for the birds, but the whole package--a trip to Bay de Verde in an orange taxi bus with a childhood friend, an esteemed ornithologist our guide, a boat ride on a heavy leaden ocean under a grey canopy of clouds, a lunch of fish chowder served piping hot and all the while, approaching an island whose closeness was measured by the

density of birds. Murres, kittiwakes, gulls, puffins, eagles, razorbills, ravens and the gannets, the aristocrats. Airplane engineers must have robbed its design to create the Concord jet.

Most of us wanted to get out and explore the island; those green plants were quite enticing from the bow of the *Jasmine Melanie*. Clyde Hyde, the skipper, motored us to the rocky boulders where an age old path once existed and we scrambled onto the island. Braver, experienced hikers scurried up the steep facing but I declined the incline. Bill assured me there was a safer way to the old lighthouse so I followed him and so did some others when they saw the course we were taking, an old path almost as invisible as the ghosts of those hardy souls that passed before us.

We set out for the old lighthouse and along the way I noticed black and pink crowberries, yarrow, twisted stalk, angelica, gall-of-the earth, cinquefoil, Swedish bunchberries, harebells, goldenrod, iris, sorrel, bearberries, and alders the latter growing prostrate. A bower of white spruce, whose cones and new growth presented a delightful picture, blocked the path.

The old lighthouse beckoned but the cries from my wristwatch were louder, telling me that others were waiting on the boat, so Time thwarted my chances of getting another photograph for my collection. The distant shot would have to do. We headed back.

Along the way we passed the hidden nests of puffins and petrels and after exploring several, Bill found a little grey storm petrel which left me with the warmest impression. Putting his arm deep into its nest to gently ease it out, Bill presented us with a gift, a bird usually only seen at night. All the while we stood in awe, photographing and sniffing, in that order. Sniffing for its musty odor which I couldn't smell, so I leaned in closer and SQUIRT, its oily

stomach contents landed on my cheek in a soft, warm *plop*.

On the way back to the boat I was nervously thinking about the steep descend on the grassy slope and wondering how I was going to manage. I voiced my thoughts to Harry, "I think I'll lean in towards the cliff in the way down and just not look." Ram Myers overheard me and to my astonishment explained to me in the most precise, purest scientific terms reasons why I should not lean but stay erect. How I wish I could remember his words. I threw all reason to wind and instinctively went down on my backside.

All safely aboard we continued our exploration of Baccalieu Island and Clyde navigated around a tiny neighbouring island whose rock formation presented a minuscule tunnel of light straight to the other side. On the second turn around I saw the light! Heading home, we could pretend we had cast a line to a pod of humpback whales, a flotilla of magnificent creatures towing us toward port. Barb and I saw three rise in perfect unison, in perfect proportions, it was a spectacle unrivaled by any theme park, we were under the spell of Neptune, the Roman god of the sea.

**Lesser Water Plantain, *Baldellia ranunculoides* (L.) Parl., at Bristol's Hope, Newfoundland: A New Plant for North America.**

By Howard Clase

On Thursday August 30th 2001 we had some time to spare while driving between Carbonear and Harbour Grace and decided to have a quick look around Bristol's Hope, which lies just off the main road between the two communities. In the end we spend well over two hours there; quite apart from our new find the area has a lot of

interesting plants, no others are particularly rare, but it is unusual to find quite so many together in the same location - definitely a place that should be on our regular field trip list.

Bristol's Hope is a small community in a valley at the end of a narrow inlet, and like many such in Newfoundland has a substantial barachois separating a freshwater lagoon called Mosquito Pond from the sea. There is no breach in this barachois since a road runs across it; the water from the stream flowing down the valley either manages to percolate through the rocks and gravel or there are man made conduits. The lagoon is roughly 250 m long and 250 m wide at the barachois. It was quite shallow at the edge and supported a lot of vegetation, and there was also an interesting selection of plants growing on the gravel of the barachois. We parked on the edge of the road, walked down to the water and our attention was soon drawn to a plant with leafless stems growing out of the water holding a whorl of flowers 15 cm or so above the surface. At first I mistook it for water lobelia, *Lobelia dortmanna*, but Leila, who was closer, could see that the flowers were quite different and since it was three petalled suggested that it was a member of the Alismataceae – as it eventually turned out to be. Each stem bore four to six flower stems but generally only one was open at a time, these were a pale mauvish pink with yellow centres and about the size of a dime, (10 - 15 mm across.) It had narrowly elliptic leaves (30 – 40 mm long and 4 – 6 mm wide) at the surface on long submerged petioles and was growing in soft mud in about 20 cm of water. There were extensive patches in several spots around the lagoon, anywhere that the water was the right depth, so it is clearly a well established plant in this location.

With the aid of our portable library we tried to identify it. It was soon obvious that Leila had the right family, but which species?



**Baldellia ranunculoides.**

Above:- Leaves and flower,  
(Photos – John Maunder).

Right:- Herbarium specimen,  
(half size).

No. LHC 01.01                      Date: 2001.08.30

**Baldellia ranunculoides** (L.) Parl.,  
Lesser Water-plantain

Location: Bristol's Hope NF., Mosquito Pond  
UTM: 22T CH 352871

Habitat: Freshwater lagoon, 10-15 cm water  
muddy bottom.

Collectors: Leila & Howard Clase

Three pale pink petals with yellow throat  
six stamens, bisexual, fl. diam c.12 mm,  
scape & leaves emergent. Well established  
colony, all round pond.

The Alismataceae are a family of water plants which grow in shallow water with leaves that are long and ribbony under water but widen out into a variety of “normal” leaf shapes when they reach the surface; their three petalled flowers are also borne above the surface in whorls on naked scapes. There are four in the New Checklist (Meades et al. 2001), one in the genus *Alisma* and three in *Sagittaria*; reference to Gray's Manual (Fernald 1950) quickly eliminated the latter, since our plant had 6 stamens like the *aliskas*, while those of the arrowheads are “very numerous”. Our one representative of this genus, the Northern Waterplantain, *Alisma triviale*, is known from two sites in the province including one on the Avalon, but has much larger, wider leaves and smaller flowers (about half the size of our plant's) without the yellow centres. The North American books showed nothing else that fitted so we turned to the one European Guide we had with us (Fitter et al. 1978) and quickly found an exact match: the Lesser Waterplantain, *Baldellia ranunculoides*. We added a couple of specimens to our pop bottle vasculum so that we could follow it up further when we got home.

Unfortunately the thin petals had withered by the time we got home to the rest of our library (I should have pressed it right away), but our memories and the rest of the plant were enough for us to be satisfied with our original conclusion. The only difference between our plants and those illustrated by Marjorie Blamey (Grey-Wilson & Blamey 1989) is that there was that the inflorescence consisted of a single whorl while the illustration shows three whorls on each stem, however, Stace (1997) says this is very variable and even single flowered forms are known. Our plants had no seeds, but when they do form, they are in a globular head similar to those of some buttercups – hence

the species name *ranunculoides*, which means “buttercup like”.

Once we were reasonable sure I phoned John Maunder, who I know often visits relatives in the area. He was going at the weekend, and phoned back within 48 hours in total agreement with our identification. He was also able to take some excellent digital pictures, which are now available on the Newfoundland Museum website.

The Swedish Natural History Museum website also has useful information. There is an image of Linneus' type specimen (as *Alisma ranunculoides* L. – his has seedheads, but is otherwise very similar to our specimen, which we are sending to the Montréal Herbarium), a map of the world wide distribution showing that the species has a scattered distribution over most of Europe from southern Scandinavia to the Mediterranean and beyond to North Africa, and a detailed description (in Swedish). They are widespread in the UK, but are nowhere common. Another synonym that has been used is *Echinodorus ranunculoides* (L.) Rich. ex Engelm. As far as we have been able to discover it has not been recorded in the wild under any of these names in North America previously, but it does appear in the catalogue of at least one commercial supplier of water plants for ornamental ponds.

Bristol's Hope has been occupied by Europeans since 1617, so tracking down the introduction would be difficult. John had an interesting suggestion: the stream flowing into the lagoon comes down from Lady Lake behind Harbour Grace, which was used as a refuelling point by trans-Atlantic seaplanes in the early days of long distance flying; could they have been brought over on the floats of one of these planes? If so, it ought to be found growing somewhere further up the river system, something that the Society ought to investigate.



As members will know we had planned a field trip to Bristol's Hope in September this year, but when John visited the area in late August he found that due to changes in the drainage through the barachois the water level was considerably higher than last year and there were no plants visible. It is likely that they will survive under water for a year or two at any rate and we hope that the level will be lower in future years.

### References

**Fernald, M.L.**, Gray's Manual of Botany, 8<sup>th</sup> Ed., American Book Co., 1950.

**Fitter, R., Fitter, A. & Blamey, M.**, "The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe" 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., Collins 1978.

**Grey-Wilson, C. & Blamey, M.**, "The Illustrated Flora of Great Britain and Northern Europe, Hodder & Stoughton, 1989.

**Meades, S.M., Hay, S.G., & Brouillet, L.**, "Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Newfoundland and Labrador", <http://www.nfmuseum.com/meades.htm>

### Web pages

[http://nfmuseum.com/flora\\_alismataceae\\_ind\\_e.g.htm](http://nfmuseum.com/flora_alismataceae_ind_e.g.htm) (John Maunder's pictures)

<http://linnaeus.nrm.se/botany/fbo/welcome.html.en> (The Linnean Hebarium (Eng.))

<http://linnaeus.nrm.se/flora/mono/alismata/balde/baldran.html> (Description & pictures (Swed.))

<http://linnaeus.nrm.se/flora/mono/alismata/balde/baldranv.jpg> (World distribution.)

### Latin Demystified: the Colours

by: Todd Boland

Using Latin names for plants is often a turn-off for would-be wildflower enthusiasts. Many gardeners too, avoid Latin names like the plague. However, Latin names make for world-wide recognition of a particular plant. Whether English, French, Italian, Chinese, etc...we all should become familiar with the Latin names of plants as in botanical circles, it's a universal language. Often, the scientific name of a plant actually describes some feature of that plant...it's shape, area of origin, habitat, colour, etc. To help explain how plants are given the names they are, I thought I'd start a series of articles describing the Latin-roots (or Greek) that are used to name a particular plant. The Latin ending should depend upon the gender of the generic name: the most common endings are -a (feminine), -us (masculine) and -um (neuter). Only the feminine -a form is given below. The easiest Latin names to recognize are based on flower/plant colours, so I'll start with them first and give some local examples of plants named after their colour.

**alba**: white e.g. *Spiraea albus* (formerly *Spiraea latifolia*; meadowsweet); *Platanthera albida* (formerly *Pseudorchis albida*; vanilla-scented orchid); *Rhynchospora alba* (white beakrush)

**argentea**: silver e.g. *Potentilla argentea* (silverleaf cinquefoil)

**argyros**: silver e.g. *Salix argyrocarpa* (silver willow)

**atropurpurea**: dark purple e.g. *Empetrum atropurpureum* (purple crowberry); *Angelica atropurpurea* (purple-stem angelica)

**atrovirens**: dark green e.g. *Scirpus atrovirens* (darkgreen bullrush)

- aurantiaca:** orange-red e.g. *Hieracium aurantiacum* (orange hawkweed)
- aurea:** gold e.g. *Packera aurea* (formerly *Senecio aureus*; golden ragwort); *Draba aurea* (golden whitlowgrass); *Carex aurea* (goldenfruit sedge)
- bicolor:** two-coloured e.g. *Carex bicolor* (bicoloured sedge)
- blanda:** plain e.g. *Viola blanda* (formerly *Viola incognita*; sweet white violet)
- brunnescens:** becoming brown e.g. *Carex brunnescens* (brownish sedge)
- caerulea:** sky-blue e.g. *Phyllodoce caerulea* (purple mountain heather)
- canescens:** becoming white e.g. *Carex canescens* (silvery sedge); *Antennaria alpina* subsp. *canescens* (alpine pussytoes)
- castanea:** chestnut e.g. *Carex castanea* (chestnut sedge)
- chrysos:** flame e.g. *Crataegus chrysocarpa* (fireberry hawthorn)
- cinnamomea:** cinnamon e.g. *Osmunda cinnamomea* (cinnamon fern)
- discolor:** two-coloured e.g. *Salix discolor* (pussy willow)
- flammea:** flame-coloured e.g. *Pedicularis flammea* (red-tipped lousewort)
- flava:** yellow e.g. *Carex flava* (yellow sedge)
- fuscus:** brown e.g. *Rhynchospora fusca* (brown beakrush)
- glabra:** white e.g. *Chelone glabra* (white turtlehead)
- glauca:** blue-green e.g. *Picea glauca* (white spruce); *Parnassia glauca* (fen grass-of-parnassus); *Festuca glauca* (blue fescue)
- lactea:** milky e.g. *Draba lactea* (milky whitlowgrass)
- maculata:** spotted e.g. *Corallorhiza maculata* (spotted coral-root)
- margaritacea:** pearly e.g. *Anaphalis margaritacea* (pearly everlasting)
- melanos:** black e.g. *Photinia melanocarpa* (formerly *Aronia melanocarpa*; black chokeberry)
- nigra:** black e.g. *Empetrum nigrum* (black crowberry); *Carex nigra* (black sedge)
- nivea:** snow-white e.g. *Potentilla nivea* (snowy cinquefoil)
- pallen:** pale e.g. *Viola pallens* (white marsh violet); *Impatiens pallens* (pale jewel-weed)
- pallescens:** becoming pale e.g. *Carex pallescens* (pale sedge)
- punctata:** spotted e.g. *Lysimachia punctata* (yellow loosestrife)
- punicea:** reddish-purple e.g. *Aster puniceus* (now *Symphotrichum puniceum*, purplestem aster)
- purpurea:** purple e.g. *Sarracenia purpurea* (pitcher-plant); *Calamagrostis purpurascens* (purple reedgrass)
- rosea:** pink e.g. *Rhodiola rosea* (formerly *Sedum roseus*; roseroot); *Streptopus roseus* (now *Streptopus lanceolatus*; rose twisted-stalk)
- rubra:** red e.g. *Actaea rubra* (red baneberry); *Arctous rubra* (formerly *Arctostaphylos rubra*; red bearberry); *Minuartia rubella* (reddish sandwort); *Acer rubrum* (red maple)
- sanguinea:** blood-coloured e.g. *Amelanchier sanguinea* (formerly *Amelanchier fernaldii*; Fernald's Chucklypear)
- sempervirens:** evergreen e.g. *Solidago sempervirens* (seaside goldenrod)
- striata:** striped e.g. *Corallorhiza striata* (striped coral-root)
- versicolor:** changing colours e.g. *Iris versicolor* (blue-flag iris)
- viride:** green e.g. *Asplenium viride* (green spleenwort); *Platanthera viridis* (formerly *Coeloglossum viride*; frog orchid)

## RARE NEWFOUNDLAND WILDFLOWERS 23

In order to develop a better understanding of the distribution of our rare plants, especially those of the West Coast, a series of these sheets will be made available to interested naturalists. Each sheet will deal with a single species known only from a few localities on the Island. Please report any sightings of rare plants to Henry Mann, Biology Department, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, A2H 6P9, or call 637-6245 (work) or 686-2340 (home). Records will be kept in the S.W.G. College Herbarium.

**Plant Name:**      **Common -**      Arctic Bladderpod

**Scientific -**      Lesquerella arctica (Wormskj.) S. Wats.  
                          (L. purshii (S.Wats.) Fern.)

### Characteristics:

This small plant forms a basal rosette of grey-green spatulate leaves. Several flowering stalks arise from the centre of the leaf rosette and spread out radially often lying close to the ground. Stalks are from 5 to 20 cm long and have smaller leaves. Flowers are about 6 mm in length and arranged in loose racemes. The yellow-petalled flowers have the typical structure of the Mustard Family (Brassicaceae/Cruciferae) with four petals and six stamens, two of which are slightly shorter than the other four. The mature fruits are globular "bladders" with the pistil style persisting. Fruits are 3 to 6 mm across, green, turning reddish purple/brown at maturity.

### Habitat:

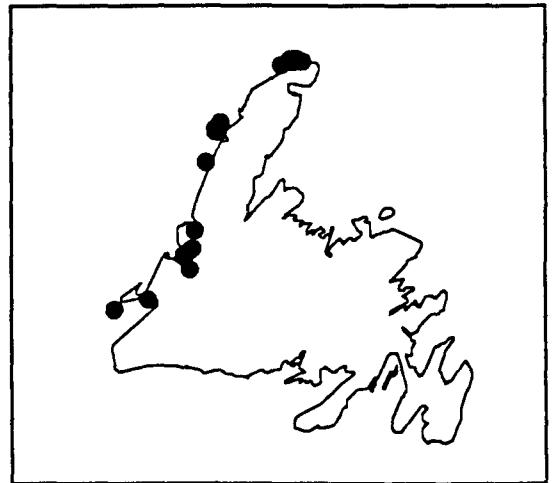
Open limestone gravels, rocky cliffs, and scree slopes.

### Flowering Season:

June to mid-July.

### Known Distribution:

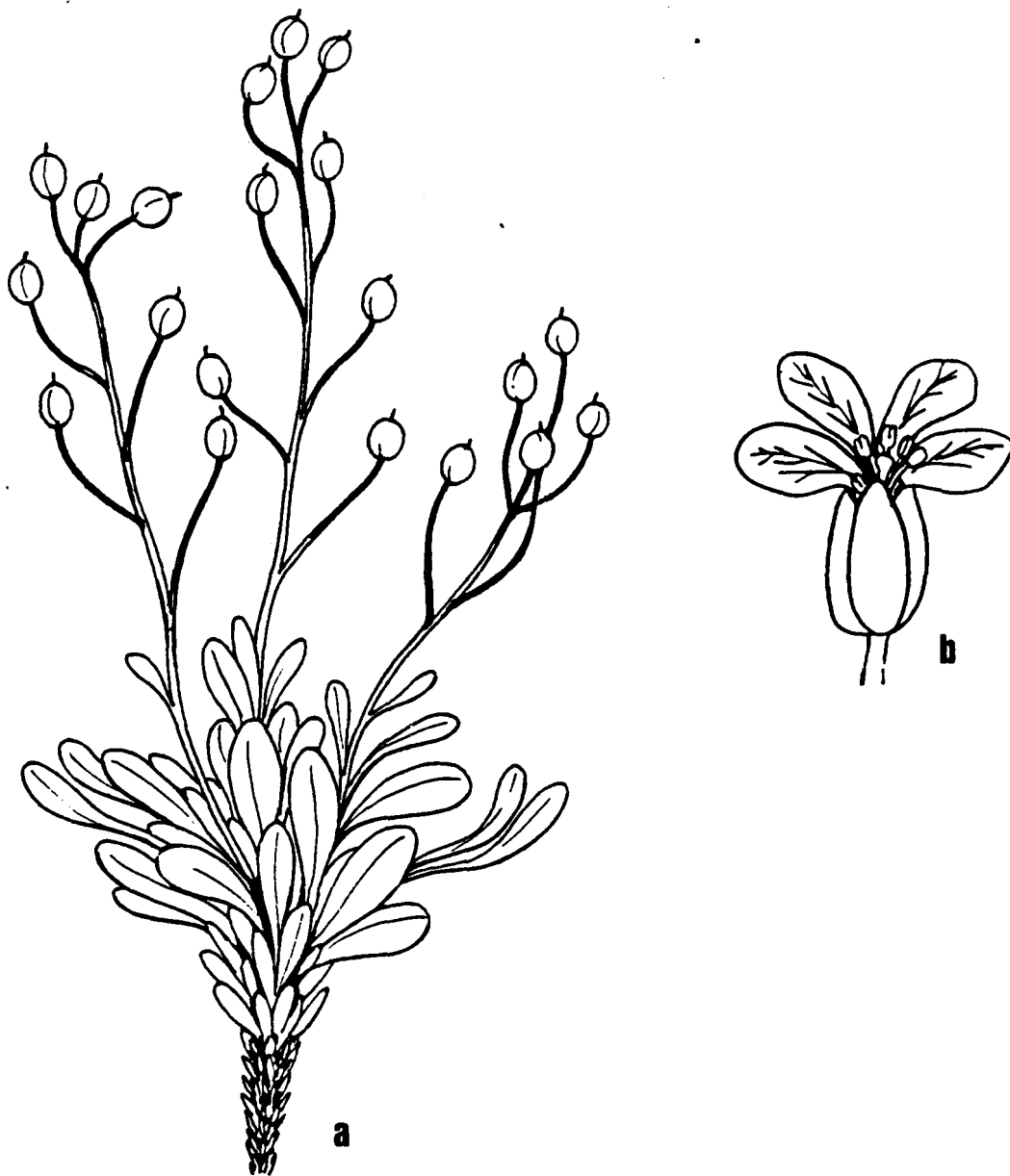
Port au Port Peninsula to the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula in Western Newfoundland.



(Distribution Map After Bouchard et al 1991)

**Diagrams:**      See reverse side of page.

This arctic/alpine species is not illustrated in the common wildflower guides of our region.



Lesquerella arctica (Wormskj.) S. Wats. (Arctic Bladderpod).  
a. entire plant with mature fruits. The drawing is more upright  
whereas the plant normally lies closer to the ground. b. A single  
flower only about 6 mm long.

## RARE NEWFOUNDLAND WILDFLOWERS 24

In order to develop a better understanding of the distribution of our rare plants, especially those of the West Coast, a series of these sheets will be made available to interested naturalists. Each sheet will deal with a single species known only from a few localities on the Island. Please report any sightings of rare plants to Henry Mann, Biology Department, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, A2H 6P9, or call 637-6245 (work) or 686-2340 (home). Records will be kept in the S.W.G. College Herbarium.

**Plant Name:**     **Common -**     Northern Valerian  
  
                          **Scientific -**     Valeriana dioica L.  
  (V. septentrionalis Rydb.)

### Characteristics:

This perennial is often about 10 to 50 cm tall. Leaves are borne opposite one another, the basal ones are entire and undivided while the upper stem leaves are lobed. Small flowers are arranged in clusters near the tip of the stem. Individual flowers have five petals united into a tube beneath, often with a small bump-like sac at the base. The white or pinkish petals (corolla) are about 2-4 mm long. Some plants may have all female flowers (pistil only) while others may have perfect flowers (both stamens and pistil). Mature seed-like fruits (achenes) have a plume of hairs at their tip for wind dispersal. Plants, especially underground parts, have a distinct "musky" odour.

### Habitat:

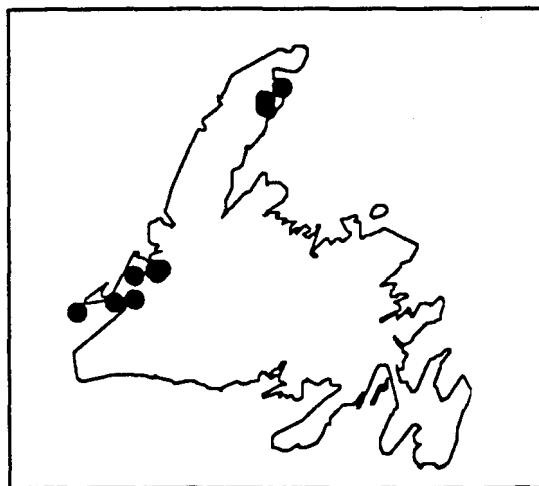
Moist meadows, grassy clearings, and herbaceous open woods over limestone.

### Flowering Season:

June-July

### Known Distribution:

Known from western Newfoundland, the Port au Port Peninsula and northward on the Great Northern Peninsula.



(Distribution Map After Bouchard et al 1991)

### Diagrams:     **See reverse side of page.**

This species is not illustrated in the common wildflower guides of our area.



Valeriana dioica L. (Northern Valerian).

a. entire plant; b. upper portion of a plant with more inflorescences;  
 c. a perfect flower; d. a female flower; e. mature inflorescence with  
 fruits ready for wind dispersal; f. individual fruit (achene) with plume  
 of hairs.