

# Furbish's Lousewort

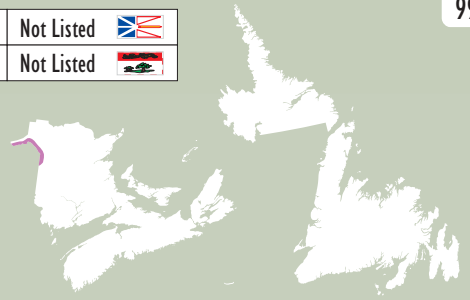
*Pedicularis furbishiae*

<b>STATUS</b>	Endangered 	Not Listed 
Endangered 	Not Listed 	Not Listed 



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Endemic to the upper Saint John River in New Brunswick and Maine; likely fewer than 1000 plants found across five sites in New Brunswick.

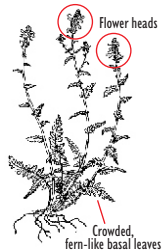


## Habitat

Furbish's Lousewort lives in periodically disturbed shoreline habitat along or near the Saint John River. It is usually observed growing with shrubs between the forest and the sparsely vegetated lower shoreline. It prefers well-drained, sandy soils that are eroded by water and ice from below, and landslides from above.

## Species Description

Furbish's Lousewort is a perennial herb that typically reaches a height of 40-90 cm. Its leaves are finely cut and fern-like and are much larger and more crowded towards the base. Its stems are slightly hairy and reddish, with some branching near the top. Flower heads are short and cylindrical, and individual flowers are yellowish, slender, and proportionally long. Younger plants are limited to a basal rosette (clump of leaves on the ground).



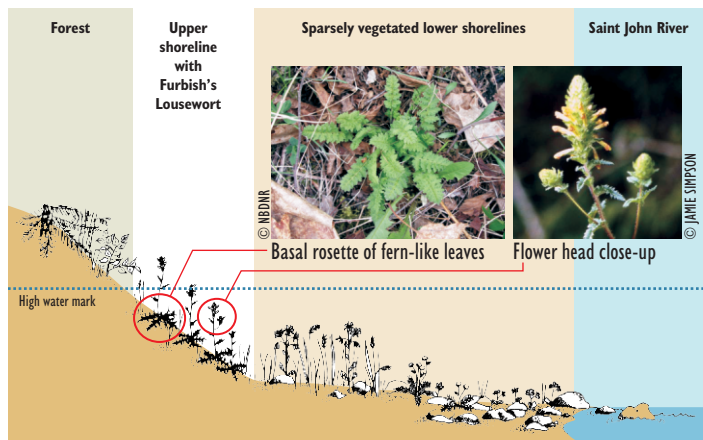
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Look for flowering plants in July and August when flowers open in sequence from bottom to top.



## Interesting Points

- Furbish's Lousewort is partly parasitic and needs to take nutrients from other plants' roots in order to become established.
- It was once thought to be extinct.
- In 1880, Maine naturalist Kate Furbish first recognized this species.
- In 1980, Furbish's Lousewort was the first plant to be designated nationally as endangered.

## Similar Species

### Wood-Betony:

Does not occur in same habitat and is smaller (15-40 cm tall); lacks a leafy stem (all leaves are in patch-forming basal clusters) and flowers earlier.



Patch of basal leaves of Wood-Betony

## Threats to Survival

- Changes to water and ice levels due to dam construction, which resulted in degradation or loss of habitat.
- Loss of shade due to vegetation clearing at top of banks.
- Bank disturbance due to roads, landscaping, and other development.
- Invasion of exotic plant species like Reed Canary Grass, Coltsfoot, Creeping Bentgrass, and a host of other species.

## How You Can Help

Leave trees standing at the top of river banks to help keep shorelines naturally shaded and stabilized. Respect guidelines on riparian buffers in order to protect the integrity of river banks. Learn how to identify this species and report any sightings to the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources.



Bank erosion along Saint John River



River shore surveys

## Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

**Contact:** AC CDC (506) 364-2658, or NB DNR (506) 453-3826

**Info:** [www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca](http://www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca), [www.cosewic.gc.ca](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings](http://www.speciesatrisk.ca/sightings)