

# Flat-leaved Bladderwort

## *Utricularia intermedia*

### Description

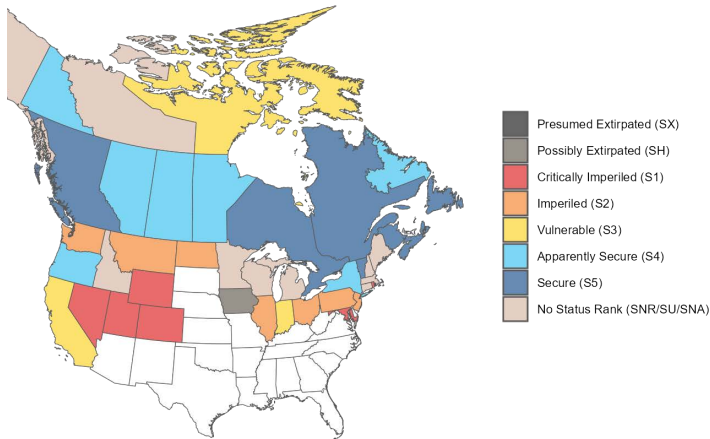
Bladderworts are herbaceous carnivorous plants, mostly aquatic, that have small bladders, usually attached to their finely divided leaves, which trap and digest tiny animals. Flat-leaved Bladderwort differs from most of its relatives in that it produces leafy creeping and prostrate stems on exposed peat, and that the leaves, although divided into narrow and forking segments, are wide enough to have an obviously flattened surface and have minute teeth along their margins. Also unlike most bladderworts, this species has the bladders not attached directly to the leaves but located on specialized leafless stems that branch off the leafy stems and that may grow to 6 inches (15 cm) in length. The yellow flowers, appearing from July to August, number from 1 to 4 and are alternately arranged on an erect stalk. Each individual flower has a two-lipped appearance, with the 3/8 inch (8-11 mm) lower lip about twice as long as the upper lip. The lower lip also has a spur-like projection at the rear.



Photo source: PNHP

### North American State/Province Conservation Status

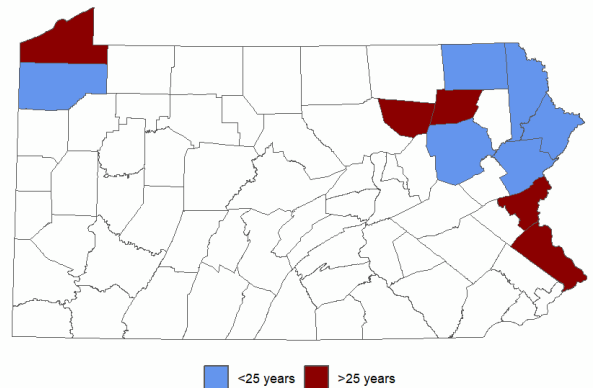
Map by NatureServe 2025



### Distribution & Habitat

Flat-leaved Bladderwort has a transcontinental range across the cooler regions of North America. In Pennsylvania, this species has been documented historically mostly in the northern, especially the glaciated northeastern, counties. The species grows on exposed peat in bogs, boggy wetlands, floating bog mat islands, and shorelines.

### Flat-leaved Bladderwort (*Utricularia intermedia*)



### Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Flat-leaved Bladderwort to be a species of special concern, based on the few locations that have been recently confirmed and the specialized wetland habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status and a PABS suggested rarity status of Threatened.

### Conservation Considerations

The viability of populations of Flat-leaved Bladderwort and its habitat may be enhanced by creating buffers and protecting the natural hydrology around wetlands and controlling invasive species. This plant is often an indicator species for bog habitats that feature various orchids, carnivorous plants such as sundew, bladderwort, and pitcher plant, and other interesting species.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5 – Globally secure; S2 – Imperiled in Pennsylvania

### References

- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2025.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.