

Multiflowered Mud-plantain

Heteranthera pauciflora

Description

Multiflowered Mud-plantain is a creeping perennial herb with hairless stems. The leaves are alternately arranged, broadly heart-shaped or kidney-shaped, untoothed on the margin, stalked at the base, rounded or very blunt at the tip, hairless on both surfaces, and with numerous curving veins on the fleshy blades. The flowers, appearing from July to October, are white to very pale purple and have 6 lobe-like segments. The male portion of the flower, the stamen, has purplish hairs, which helps to distinguish this species from the more common species *Heteranthera reniformis*, which has whitish hairs. The fruit is a many-seeded capsule.

Distribution & Habitat

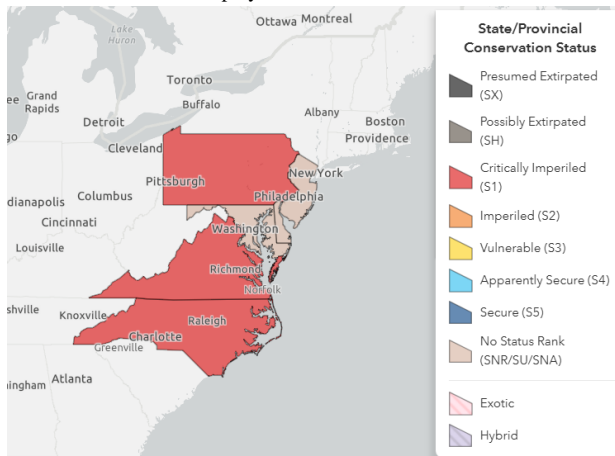
Multiflowered Mud-plantain has a range in central and coastal mid-Atlantic portions of North America. In Pennsylvania, the species has been documented historically only in a few southeastern counties along the Delaware River. Multiflowered Mud-plantain grows in intertidal marshes, mudflats, and shorelines along the lower Delaware River. The plants are subjected to daily cycles of exposure and inundation.



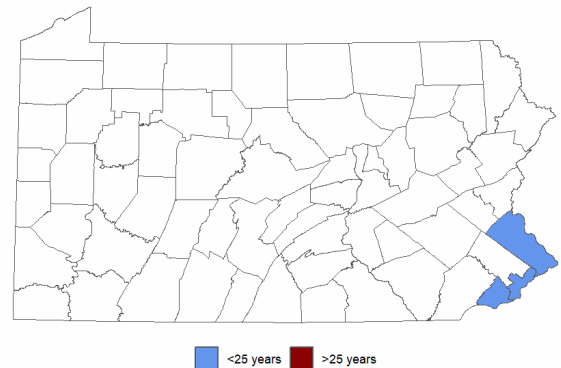
Photo source: Andrew Strassman, PNHP

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



Multiflowered Mud-plantain (*Heteranthera pauciflora*)



State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Multiflowered Mud-plantain a rarity status of Endangered, based on the few populations that have been documented, its restricted state range, and the very specialized habitat. The known populations have threats from exotic species, dredging and filling, and water pollution.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G3 — Vulnerable globally; S1 — Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

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. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.