



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Climbing Fumitory *Adlumia fungosa* (Ait.) Greene

State Status: **Special Concern**

Federal Status: **None**

DESCRIPTION: Climbing Fumitory is an herbaceous biennial vine that can reach lengths of 10 feet (3 m). In its first year, this plant consists of a rosette of several spreading or upright, non-climbing leaves without a central stem. In its second year, it develops a slender, elongate stem and large delicate leaves. Lacking tendrils, it clammers over rocks and climbs vegetation using its stem and leaves. The leaves are 3-times-pinnate and the leaflets are mostly 3-lobed. The uppermost leaflets are much smaller than the rest of the leaves. Climbing Fumitory flowers from mid-June to early August. The flowers are white or pinkish, ½ inch long, and droop in loose clusters from the axils. The four petals are joined to form a bell-shaped flower similar to those of Squirrel Corn (*Dicentra canadense*). Climbing Fumitory is unlike any other plant in Massachusetts.

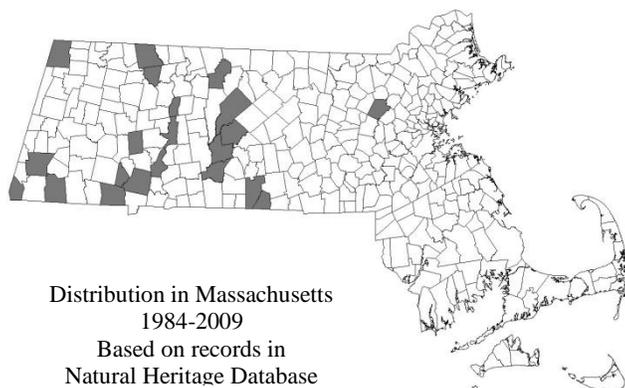


Photo by Bryan Connolly, NHESP

RANGE: The range of Climbing Fumitory is from Quebec to Minnesota, south to Delaware, Ohio, and Indiana. The range extends further south in the Appalachian Mountains to North Carolina and Tennessee.

HABITAT: In Massachusetts, Climbing Fumitory inhabits moist ledges and rocky woods. It is usually found in the shade climbing over talus at the base of cliffs. It grows in association with Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Basswood (*Tilia americana*), Black Birch (*Betula lenta*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), Bottlebrush Grass (*Hystrix patula*), Round-leaved Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*), and Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadense*).

POPULATION STATUS: Climbing Fumitory is considered a Species of Special Concern in the Commonwealth. This species is threatened by excessive shading by maturing forest, particularly Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*).



Distribution in Massachusetts
1984-2009
Based on records in
Natural Heritage Database

Updated 2015

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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