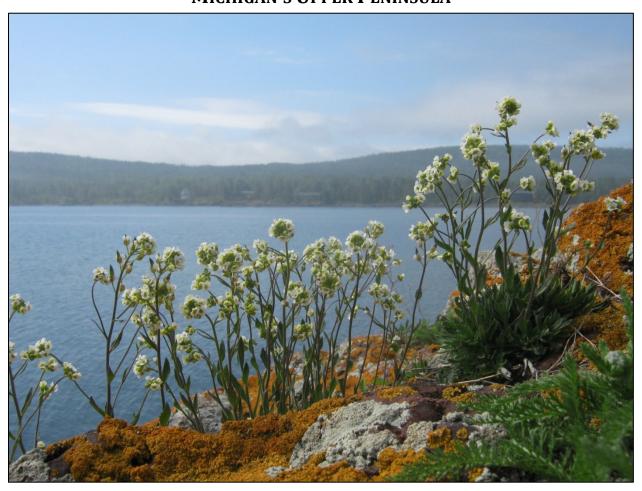
ARCTIC-ALPINE DISJUNCTS ON ISLE ROYALE AND THE KEWEENAW PENINSULA OF MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA



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Cover photograph: <i>Draba arabisans</i> (rock whitlow-grass), Keweenaw Co., MI, 22 June 2014. Photo by Janet Marr.

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INTRODUCTION

The Keweenaw County mainland and Isle Royale (also part of Keweenaw County) collectively support 97 of Michigan's 413 state-listed vascular plant taxa (23%). Among these taxa, 35 are considered critically imperiled (S1 or S1S2), 38 are imperiled (S2 or S2S3), and 15 are considered vulnerable (S3 or S3S4). Two of the 97 taxa are known only from historical records (SH), and seven taxa are considered extirpated (SX). Among taxa considered extant, 12 are listed as state endangered (E), 53 are threatened (T), and 25 are considered to be of special concern (SC) and are tracked but not protected. Of particular note are 40 state-listed taxa that are restricted in Michigan to the Keweenaw County mainland and/or Isle Royale (Michigan Natural Features Inventory [MNFI] 2007; Reznicek et al. 2011). Many of these species are disjunct from their contiguous ranges in the western United States or, particularly, boreal and arcticalpine regions of Canada and Alaska (MNFI 2007; Voss and Reznicek 2012).

The arctic-alpine element of the Keweenaw – Isle Royale flora has attracted particular attention (Wells and Thompson 1974; Given and Soper 1981; Reschke 1985; Slavick and Janke 1987; Albert et al. 1997; Judziewicz 1997a-c; Judziewicz et al. 1997; Marr et al. 2009). Thought to be elements of a previously widespread periglacial flora, these species persist locally, primarily in the immediate vicinity of Lake Superior where moist, cool microhabitats impacted by snow and ice and developed on thin soils over bedrock prevent the encroachment of boreal forest communities and provide local refugia from desiccation (Given and Soper 1981). In particular, concentrations of arctic-alpine species along Lake Superior appear to be closely associated with mid-summer surface water temperatures, with these species sparsely distributed or absent from those stretches of the shoreline where summer surface water temperatures exceed 15°C (59°F).

The short-term and long-term viability of populations of arctic-alpine plants along Lake Superior is threatened by anthropogenic climatic warming, which may increase summer surface water temperatures in Lake Superior by as much as 6°C (11°F) by 2100 (Trumpickas et al. 2009). Projected changes in Lake Superior water levels (e.g., MacKay and Seglenieks 2013) may also impact populations of arctic-alpine plants, for example through direct impacts such as inundation or indirect impacts such as a reduction of suitably cool, moist microhabitats or potentially the invasion of early successional habitats by woody species (Lesica and McCune 2004) if water levels drop.

In order to monitor the impacts of climate change and habitat changes on populations of boreal and arctic-alpine vascular plant taxa, we require quantitative data on population sizes, areas of occupancy, and precise locations. To date, MNFI tracks information on 786 total element occurrences (EOs; corresponding to populations or groups of interacting populations) of state-listed vascular plants in Keweenaw County including Isle Royale (Figure A). Unfortunately, 348 (44%) of these EOs were last observed or surveyed prior to 1990 (MNFI 2015), and nearly all of them (734 occurrences, or 93% of the total) were last observed or surveyed prior to 2000 (MNFI 2015), before the widespread adoption of highly accurate portable GPS units, GIS technology, and high resolution aerial imagery. In addition to the lack of precise locational data, population estimates are often coarse or absent, and threats or potential threats to these populations are often not adequately addressed.

In March 2014, the authors were awarded a grant by the Hanes Trust Foundation to address some of these data gaps by surveying and collecting data for at least 25 rare vascular plant EOs on the Keweenaw mainland. The following sections report the results of our 2014 field surveys.

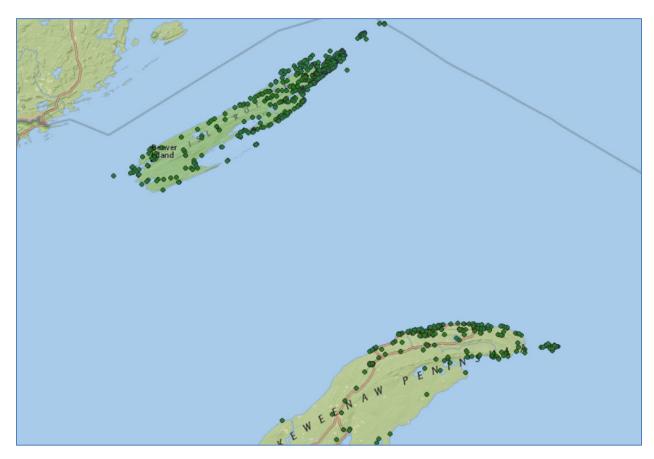


Figure A. Centroids of documented EOs of state-listed vascular plants in Keweenaw County (including Isle Royale). Note concentrations of points along the northern shore of the Keweenaw Peninsula and the northeastern shores of Isle Royale, corresponding to areas of cool mid-summer surface water temperatures (Given and Soper 1981).

METHODS

Prior to field surveys, we reviewed the MNFI database of rare vascular plant EOs documented from mainland Keweenaw County and prioritized EO revisits based on dates of last survey, data gaps, precision of mapped distributions, public access, and other factors. Field surveys were conducted between June and September 2014. For each EO visited, we documented population sizes (counts or estimates, depending on the species and site), recorded area(s) of occupancy using GPS points and tracks, described occupied habitats, and identified threats and potential threats to each EO. We collected the same data for new EOs discovered during this process. Voucher specimens were collected where necessary and deposited at the University of Michigan Herbarium (MICH), which manages the Michigan Flora website (Reznicek et al. 2011). Data for each EO were transcribed on MNFI Special Plant

Survey Forms (Appendix 1) and processed and entered into the MNFI natural heritage database in winter and spring 2014 – 2015 (MNFI 2015).

Following data entry, new EO conservation ranks were assigned to each occurrence following standard Natural Heritage Methodology (NatureServe 2002). These ranks are designed to assess vulnerability and viability of each occurrence, taking into consideration population size and demographics, spatial extent, and habitat conditions, among other factors. Ranks are in general assigned on an A – D spectrum, with A-ranked occurrences considered to have excellent viability, and D-ranked occurrences considered to have poor viability (NatureServe 2002). Recent EOs (in general, documented within the past 40 years) for which there are no population data are assigned a rank of E (extant). EOs that are >40 years old are considered historical (H), unless there is reason to believe they are extirpated (X) due to habitat loss or other factors. If a survey fails to document a previously identified EO, but there is reason to believe the EO may still be extant, a rank of F (failed to find) is assigned, pending additional surveys.

RESULTS

A total of 37 element occurrences were revisited or newly documented in 2014, comprising ca. 17% of the 219 documented EOs from the Keweenaw County mainland, and ca. 21% of the 175 EOs of extant species with enough location data to make targeted surveys feasible (Table 1). Fourteen of these EOs are of arctic-alpine disjunct taxa; the remaining taxa are of more general boreal distribution or are disjunct from western North American (MNFI 2007). Among the 37 EOs surveyed, 27 (73%) were reconfirmed, six (16%) were not rediscovered, and four (11%) were new discoveries (Table 1).

Table 1. Rare plant taxa surveyed in summer 2014. Taxa marked with an asterisk* are listed as arcticalpine disjuncts by Given and Soper (1981).

Species	Common Name	State Status	# EOs Surveyed	#EOs Located
Arnica cordifolia	heart-leaved arnica	E	1	1
Asplenium viride	green spleenwort	SC	1	1
Bistorta vivipara*	Alpine bistort	Т	1	1
Calypso bulbosa	calypso	Т	1	0
Carex media	sedge	Т	1	1
Carex rossii	sedge	Т	1	1
Castilleja septentrionalis*	northern paintbrush	Т	4	4
Chamaerhodos nuttallii	Keweenaw rock-rose	E	1	1
Clematis occidentalis	purple clematis	SC	3 (1 new)	1 (1 new)
Crataegus douglasii	black hawthorn	SC	3 (1 new)	3 (1 new)
Cypripedium arietinum	ram's head lady-slipper	SC	1	1
Draba arabisans	rock whitlow-grass	SC	2	2
Empetrum nigrum*	black crowberry	Т	1	0
Erigeron hyssopifolius	hyssop-leaved fleabane	T	1 (new)	1 (new)
Littorella uniflora	American shore-grass	SC	1	0
Neottia auriculata	auricled twayblade	SC	1	1
Packera indecora	rayless mountain ragwort	T	2 (1 new)	2 (1 new)
Pinguicula vulgaris*	butterwort	SC	4	4
Potentilla litoralis	prairie cinquefoil	Т	1	0
Pterospora andromedea	pine-drops	T	2	2
Trisetum spicatum*	downy oat grass	SC	4	4

Conservation ranks were upgraded for three EOs, stable for 10 EOs, and downgraded for 11 EOs (Appendix 2). Ten EOs were newly ranked, either because they were newly discovered (four EOs) or because they were considered extant (E) but not rankable (six EOs). Two historical EOs were redocumented and received letter ranks, and one historical record was not redocumented and is maintained as a historical record. For all redocumented or newly documented EOs, spatial data were updated within the MNFI statewide conservation database (MNFI 2015).

DISCUSSION

Database Updates

The 2014 surveys resulted in significant updates to 17% of the vascular plant EO records documented from the Keweenaw mainland. Among these improvements are updated population estimates, more descriptive habitat assessments, threats assessments, improved and updated EO ranks, and greatly improved spatial data (MNFI 2015). In several cases, the documentation of populations with hand-held GPS units resulted in the replacement of generalized spatial data (often encompassing thousands of hectares) with precise spatial representations of populations (Figure B).



Figure B. Spatial representations of vascular plant EOs in Keweenaw County. Yellow-bordered areas (left-central portion of the image) are updated representations following 2014 field surveys. The large green area over the left 80% of the image is representative of general spatial representations for EOs that lack detailed locational information.

Conservation Trends

For most species, too few records were surveyed in 2014 to assess population viability trends. However, three species appear to be critically imperiled on the Keweenaw mainland based on survey results:

Potentilla litoralis (prairie cinquefoil) was known historically from three locations on the Keweenaw mainland, and was known from Brockway Mountain at least into the 1980s (MNFI 2015). A thorough survey of the Brockway Mountain population was conducted in 2014, and the species was not relocated. The area in which this species occurred is significantly disturbed by recreational use, including the parking of vehicles, and road maintenance. Invasive species are prevalent. Prairie cinquefoil may now be restricted in Michigan to the Isle Royale archipelago.

Chamaerhodos nuttallii (Keweenaw rock-rose) is known in Michigan only from Brockway Mountain, where it is disjunct from the west (Reznicek et al. 2011). In 2014, only a single plant was located (Figure C). This short-lived monocarpic perennial was represented by 100s of individuals as recently as the 1980s, with a steadily declining population since that time (MNFI 2015). The area that supported the originally documented colony is infested with spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), which may have contributed to its local extirpation. Although there may be more plants in difficult to survey areas of the cliffs along Brockway Mountain Drive, this only known EO, and thus likely the species, is nearly extirpated from Michigan.

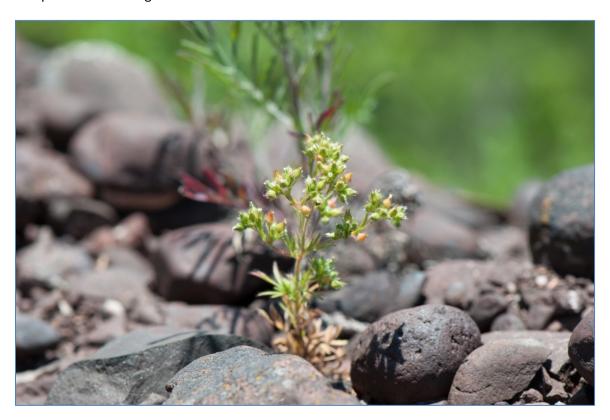


Figure C. Chamaerhodos nuttallii (Keweenaw rock-rose) is known from one site on Brockway Mountain. Photo by B. Slaughter, 13 July 2014.

Carex media is locally frequent in the Isle Royale archipelago, but is known from the Keweenaw mainland only from a small stretch of shoreline in Agate Harbor (MNFI 2015). 2014 surveys found no plants on the mainland, and only one small colony on nearby Silver Island, down from several hundred plants in the mid-1980s (Figure D). This population may have been reduced by ice scour or other

changes on its lakeshore cliff habitat. Silver Island is the only easily accessible population of *C. media* remaining in the Keweenaw Peninsula, the next closest populations being on Manitou Island off Keweenaw Point.



Figure D. Carex media on Silver Island. Photo by J. Marr, 22 June 2014.

Significant Finds

During an EO revisit in July 2014, the second author discovered a colony of *Erigeron hyssopifolius* (hyssop-leaved fleabane), a species previously known from Keweenaw County (and the western Upper Peninsula) only from an 1890 collection by O.A. Farwell (Reznicek et al. 2011) (Figure E). *E. hyssopifolius* is otherwise localized in Michigan to a few marl fens in Mackinac County (MNFI 2015).



Figure E. *Erigeron hyssopifolius* (hyssop-leaved fleabane), documented on a seepy bedrock shoreline in 2014 by J. Marr. Previously known from Keweenaw County only from an 1890 collection. Photo by J. Marr, 16 July 2014.

Future Surveys

The majority of vascular plant EOs in Keweenaw County have not been assessed since at least 1990 (MNFI 2015). Surveys to address these significant data gaps should continue over the next several years. Following completion of surveys on the Keweenaw mainland, EO revisits and de novo surveys should be conducted in the Isle Royale archipelago, which harbors many taxa, including many arctic-alpine disjuncts, that do not occur elsewhere in Keweenaw County or Michigan (Reznicek et al. 2011; MNFI 2015). Updated and improved population data will permit the long-term monitoring of these taxa and populations, many of which are threatened by climate change (e.g., Lesica and McCune 2004) and other disturbances.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

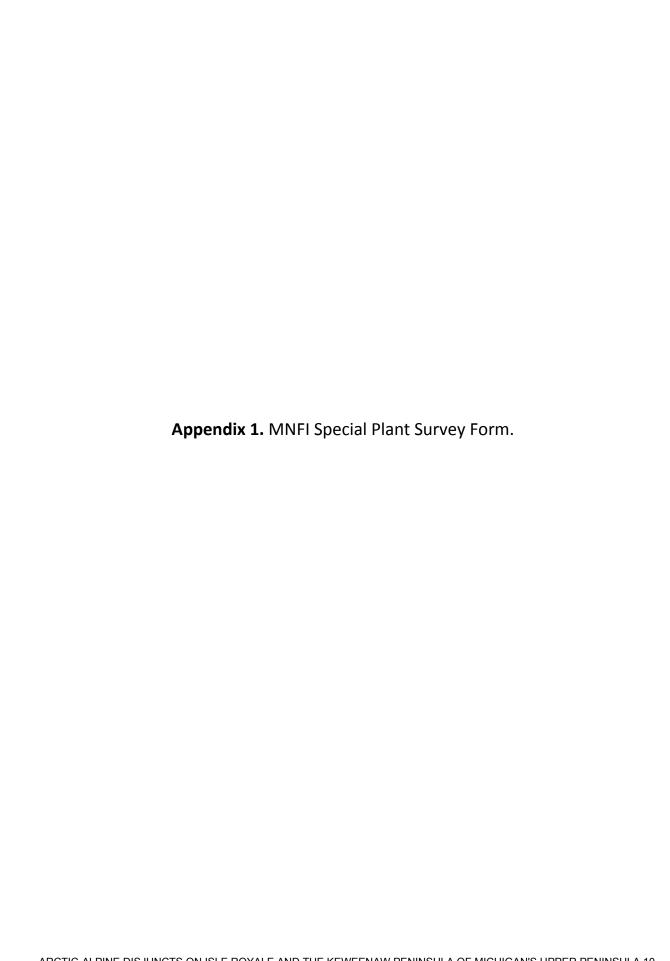
The authors thank Erin Victory, Scott Namestnik, Bob Marr, Mark Jindrich, and Emily Newhouse for assisting with field surveys. We thank landowners who allowed us to access their properties for surveys,

especially William and Nanno Rose (Silver Island). Tony Reznicek (University of Michigan) confirmed several species identifications. This effort was made possible by the Hanes Trust Foundation, and we thank the trustees and especially Dennis Woodland for their support throughout the duration of the grant.

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Special Plant Survey Form



ELEMENT IDENTIFICATION Data sensitive? Yes No		EQ Develo	FOID	FO #
Name (scientific and/or common) :		EO Rank:	EOID:	EO #:
VERIFICATION Photo/slide taken? Yes No Name and location of photo?				
Specimen collected? Yes No Collection # and repository:				
Identification problems?				
If necessary, describe the important plant characteristics you used for identification	ation:			
SURVEY INFORMATION				
Survey date: Time: from AM [PM to	AM	PM Sourceco	de:
Surveyors (principal surveyor first, include first & last name):				
Revisit needed? Yes No Why?				
LOCATIONAL INFORMATION				
Survey site name:	Quadcoo	de:		
Managed area name:	Quad nar	me:		
Township/Range/Section:	County na	me:		
DIRECTIONS: Provide detailed directions to the observation (rather than the sur	vey site). Include l	andmarks, roads,	towns, distances, cor	mpass directions.
Was a GPS used? Yes No Type of unit:		Unit number:		
Waypoint name/#: File n	name and location	:		
Latitude: Longitude:				
Feature Information: Conceptual feature type: Point: < 9 m in both direction Source feature: Single Source EO	_		dimension	Polygon: > 9 m in both dimensions
OWNERSHIP INFORMATION Landowner type: Public Private Other:				
Landowner type: Public Private Other: Landowner Name - Contact Information:				
Notes:				
POPULATION DATA Abundance (total size of the occurrence): Type of measure	ement (check one)			
	int Estimate	<u>:</u>		
Thankets (total ii of sterns).	ınt			
Population distribution (e.g., widely scattered, dense clumps, evenly distributed				

Area of occupancy (f	fill in one):	Meters	Acres Miles	Type of measurer	ment (check one): Precis	e Estimate
Phenology: Indicate	e the number o	observed in each catego	ory (or X if numbers are unk	nown):		
In leaf	In bud	In flower	Immature fruit	Mature fruit	Seed dispersing	Dormant
CONDITION						
EVIDENCE OF REPRO	DUCTION?	Yes No Ur	nknown Explain:			
EVIDENCE OF DISEAS	SE/PREDATION	l:				
ANIMAL POLLINATO	RS observed o	n the plant (list species)):			
LANDSCAPE DESCRII agriculture, wetland		TTING: Describe the sur	rrounding landform(s) prese	ent, natural communitie	es, historic and current human	impacts (e.g.,logging,
			icrohabitat <u>where this plant</u> e (e.g., windthrow, fire, wate		tal image of the habitat includ	ding landform, vegetation, slope,
-			-			
TOROGRADILIV		Aspect:	Slope:	Light:	Position:	Moisture:
TOPOGRAPHY	6.	□ N □ NE	Flat	☐ Open	Crest	Inundated
Elevation:	ft.	E NW	O-10	Partial	Upper slope	Saturated (wet-mesic)
If elevation is a rang		S SE	☐ 10-35 ☐ 35+	Filtered	Mid slope	Moist (mesic)
Minimum:	ft. ft.		☐ Vertical	Shade	☐ Lower slope ☐ Bottom	☐ Dry-mesic ☐ Dry (xeric)
			_			
ASSOCIATED SP		0/	Hardanatana Carasia	0/	Constant and a	0/ 2010
Overstory/Tree Spec	ies:	% cover	Understory Species:	% cover	Ground cover:	% cover
			· -			
			· -			
			·			

THREATS AND HUMAN DISTURBANCES OR IMPACTS to this occurrence: (e.g., grazing, logging, ditching and drainage, ORV use, fire suppression)
INVASIVE SPECIES PRESENT?: Yes No If yes, describe their impacts to the occurrence.
POTENTIAL THREATS to this occurrence:
MANACEMENT AND RECTION
MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION
Management (including stewardship and restoration) for the Element at this location (e.g., burn periodically, open the canopy, control invasives, remove drainage ditches, clear blocked culvert, break drain tile, reduce deer densities, study effects of herbivore impacts)
Monitoring and Research Needs for the Element at this location (e.g., study effect of herbivore impacts, etc.)
Protection Needs for the Element at this location (e.g., protect the entire marsh, the slope and crest of slope, the fen and upland, ban ORVs, etc.)
MAP (mandatory)
1. Attach appropriate part of a USGS topographic map or map showing exact locations of species. Image can be uploaded into the Map Insert field located at the end of
this form or clearly associated with this form once completed. 2. Indicate on the map the exact location of the observation(s):
a. When the observation area is no larger then a pen point on the map (i.e., only a small number of individuals or extremely small patches), place small points on the map
indicating the location(s) of the individuals or patches, and label each point with an arrow so they are more easily seen. b. When the observed area is <i>larger then a pen point</i> on the map. (e.g., a population of plants, foraging birds):
(1) Draw a thin solid boundary line showing the extent of the observed area occupied by the individuals.
(2) Indicate disjunct patches (polygons) by drawing the boundary for each patch separately. (3) If the boundary follows the edge of a lake, stream, road, marsh or other feature, draw the boundary <u>precisely on the edge</u> of the feature.
(4) When needed, add notes to the map with instruction on where the boundary line is located or if the boundary is shared with other observations.
3. A hand drawn sketch may be included for finer details.
LOCATIONAL CERTAINTY Is your depiction of the observed area on the map within 4.5 m (approx. 15ft) of its actual location on the ground? Yes No
If No, complete the following:
a. Estimate of uncertainty distance: based on landmarks, elevation, etc., the location of the observed area on the map is accurate to within
Meters Kilometers Feet Miles of its actual location on the ground.
b. Is the observed area known to be located within some feature(s) on the map (e.g., wetland boundary, lake, road, trail, highway, contour lines)? Yes If Yes, indicate the boundary within which the observed area is known to be located on the map line, and if applicable, identify the feature (e.g., marsh).

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EOID	Species	Site	Last Survey Date	Last Rank	New Survey Date	New Rank	Surveyor	Population Notes
320	Arnica cordifolia	Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	06/24/1983	С	07/10/2014	С	BS	3 colonies; 26 fl/ft stems
6638	Asplenium viride	Silver River Gorge	09/14/1997	AB	08/31/2014	AB	JM, MJ, EN	Ca. 120 clumps
12247	Bistorta vivipara	Horseshoe Harbor	07/08/1999	С	07/10/2014	CD	BS	Ca. 72 plants
2028	Calypso bulbosa	Copper Harbor	1982	E	06/18/2014	F	JM	Not found
1823	Carex media	Silver Island	6/23/81	В	06/22/2014	D	JM	One clump
6476	Carex rossii	Silver Island	6/23/81	AB	07/11/2014	С	JM, BS, EV, SN	Ca. 18 clumps
1177	Castilleja septentrionalis	Dan's Point	06/02/2006	В	07/23/2014	ВС	JM	76 plants
8239	Castilleja septentrionalis	Horseshoe Harbor	07/08/1999	С	07/12/2014	В	BS	383 plants
9705	Castilleja septentrionalis	Agate Harbor	06/23/1981	E	06/22/2014	В	JM	35-40 clumps
12178	Castilleja septentrionalis	Copper Harbor Lighthouse	07/19/1950	Н	06/18/2014	D	JM	2 plants
8866	Chamaerhodos nuttallii	Brockway Mountain	09/15/2012	CD	07/03/2014	D	JM, BM	1 plant
286	Clematis occidentalis	Grand Marais Harbor	08/21/1981	С	06/25/2014	F	JM	Not found
647	Clematis occidentalis	Lookout Mountain	1982	E	07/20/2014	F	JM	Not found
20176	Clematis occidentalis	Esrey Park West	new	new	06/19/2014	CD	JM	2 plants
5965	Crataegus douglasii	Eagle River	06/11/1972	E	09/06/2014	В	JM	Ca. 20 plants
6067	Crataegus douglasii	Lookout Mountain	07/06/1934	Н	07/20/2014	С	JM	6 clumps
20177	Crataegus douglasii	Dan's Point	new	new	07/23/2014	С	JM	2 plants
932	Cypripedium arietinum	Esrey Park	1969	С	06/19/2014	ВС	JM	19 plants
6990	Draba arabisans	Agate Harbor Islands	07/13/1982	Α	06/22/2014	Α	JM	1000s plants
13161	Draba arabisans	Lookout Mountain	1981	В	07/20/2014	В	JM	Ca. 800+ plants
12758	Empetrum nigrum	Schlatter Lake	06/28/1949	Н	07/03/2014	F	JM	Not found
20174	Erigeron hyssopifolius	Eagle River West	new	new	07/10/2014	В	JM	100s to >1000 plants
7188	Littorella uniflora	Schlatter Lake	08/19/1976	В	07/03/2014	F	JM	Not found
7842	Neottia auriculata	Garden City Creek	06/24/1984	В	06/19/2014	ВС	JM	Ca. 90 plants
20101	Packera indecora	Horseshoe Harbor	08/04/2000	E	07/12/2014	С	BS	78+ plants
20173	Packera indecora	Eagle River West	new	new	07/10/2014	С	JM	Ca. 22 plants
4321	Pinguicula vulgaris	Cat Harbor	06/22/1981	Α	07/10/2014	Α	JM	Ca. 1000+ plants
8799	Pinguicula vulgaris	Dan's Point	05/31/1980	AB	07/23/2014	AB	JM	Ca. 2000 plants
10691	Pinguicula vulgaris	Horseshoe Harbor	07/08/1999	В	07/10/2014	В	BS	Ca. 1885+ plants
12607	Pinguicula vulgaris	Eagle River West	07/14/1981	AB	07/10/2014	AB	JM	Ca. 1500+ plants
5239	Potentilla litoralis	Brockway Mountain	06/23/1981	С	07/13/2014	Х	BS, SN, EV	Not found
890	Pterospora andromedea	Silver Island	08/15/2003	С	07/11/2014	С	JM, BS, EV, SN	5 plants
9444	Pterospora andromedea	Grand Marais Harbor	08/03/2007	CD	06/25/2014	С	JM	5 plants
1337	Trisetum spicatum	Horseshoe Harbor	08/23/1998	В	07/12/2014	В	BS	Ca. 77 plants
4277	Trisetum spicatum	Dan's Point	1982	E	07/23/2014	С	JM	Ca. 10 colonies
5646	Trisetum spicatum	Silver Island	1985	E	07/11/2014	ВС	JM, BS, EV, SN	>18 clumps
10621	Trisetum spicatum	Grand Marais Harbor	1982	Е	06/25/2014		JM	33+ clumps