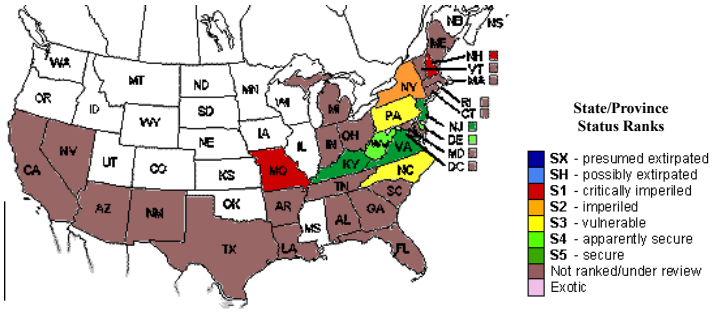
Beggar-ticks
(*Bidens laevis*)

Description

Beggar-ticks is an annual or perennial herb with a hairless stem that may grow to 3 feet (1 meter) in height. The leaves are oppositely arranged, without a obvious stalk at the base, linear to lance-shaped, from 1.5 to 6 inches (4 to 15 cm) in length and to 1.5 inches (4 cm) in width, hairless on both surfaces, and toothed on the margin. The flowers, appearing from August to October, have conspicuous yellow ray flowers that are 0.5 to 1.25 inches (1.5 to 3 cm) in length. The individual fruits have slender barbed projections that aid in dispersal.

Photo source: Ann Rhoads, Morris Arboretum

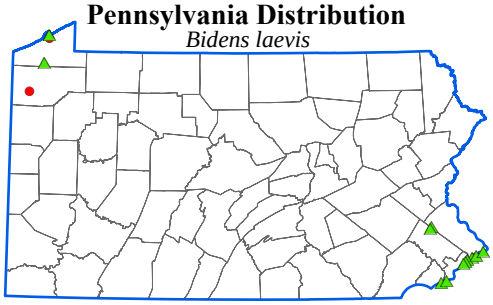
North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe 2010



Distribution & Habitat

Beggar-ticks has a range throughout much of the eastern and southern United States. In Pennsylvania, it has been documented historically in several southeastern and northwestern counties. Beggar-ticks grows in marshes, swamps, and on shorelines.

Pennsylvania Distribution
Bidens laevis



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Data 3-2011

State Status & Conservation

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) has assigned Beggar-ticks a rarity status of Endangered. The general habitat of this species has threats from exotic species and draining and filling.

NatureServe conservation status ranks
G5 – Globally Secure**; S1 –** Critically Imperiled in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

- NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at http://www.natureserve.org/explorer
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2011.
- 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.