



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Zosterella dubia (Jacq.) Small

Water Stargrass

Habitat: Damp sands, often submerged in quiet waters. [Open water (non-forested, wetland)]

Range: Southern Quebec to North Dakota and Washington, south to Cuba and South America.

Phenology: Flowers June - September.

Family: Pontederiaceae

Aids to Identification: This perennial aquatic plant usually grows in shallow water with its stem submersed. The leaves are grass-like, up to 15 cm long. The flowers are pale yellow, and the fruits are black. It can be recognized vegetatively by its alternate, narrow, parallel-sided leaves with many fine veins, but lacking a more prominent central vein.

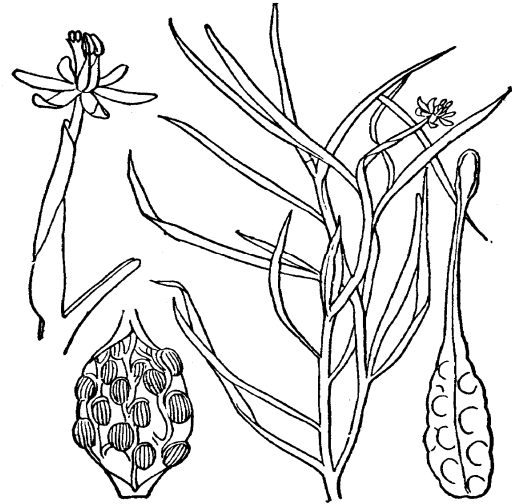


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Ecological characteristics: In Maine this species may occur along shallow shorelines, or in open water.

Synonyms: Formerly known as *Heteranthera dubia* (Jacq.) MacM.

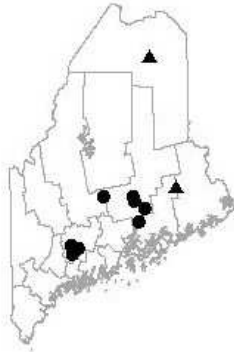
Rarity of *Zosterella dubia*

State Rank:	S3	Rare in Maine.
New England Rank:	None	
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Zosterella dubia*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Special Concern	Rare based on available information, but not sufficiently rare to be considered Threatened or Endangered.

Known Distribution in Maine:



- ▲ Historical (before 1982)
● Recent (1982 - present)

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 10 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Hancock, Kennebec, Penobscot, Somerset, Waldo.

Dates of documented observations are: 1940, 1960, 1981, 1990 (3), 1999 (3), 2000, 2002 (2)

Reason(s) for rarity:

At northern limit of range.

Conservation considerations:

Maintain water quality in the lakes and ponds in which it occurs.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 05 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species, please contact the Natural Areas Program
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

