

Species Status Assessment

Common Name bog huckleberry **Date Updated:** 2024-03-15
Scientific Name *Gaylussacia bigeloviana* **Updated By:** Gregory J. Edinger
Family Ericaceae

Species Synopsis (*a short paragraph which describes species taxonomy, distribution, recent trends, and habitat in New York*):

Bog huckleberry (*Gaylussacia bigeloviana*), also called dwarf huckleberry and gopherberry, is a shrub/subshrub in the Heath Family (Ericaceae). There are three species of *Gaylussacia* in NY and all are native to the state (Werier et al. 2023).

Bog huckleberry is found from Quebec and Newfoundland in the north, south through New England (excluding Vermont), the Mid-Atlantic and Appalachian states, to Florida and Louisiana. In NY, bog huckleberry is known from Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley (NYNHP 2023, 2024).

There are five existing populations of bog huckleberry in NY with over 1000 plants total in the state, but only one of them is large and protected on a NYS DEC Wildlife Management Area. There are 18 historical occurrences. Some of them need to be resurveyed, but many of them are considered extirpated. In NY, bog huckleberry has been found in dwarf shrub bogs along the edge of a lake, in a shrub swamp within a pitch pine forest, and in wet, sphagnous openings along roadsides and trailsides. Some bog huckleberry plants occur along roadsides, or in powerlines that may be threatened by improper maintenance techniques that destroy the plants. Succession and a closing tree canopy may also threaten some populations that are in open habitats (NYNHP 2023, 2024).

Short-term trends of bog huckleberry are unknown, but possibly stable since only one population has been resurveyed recently and its condition has stayed the same. The long-term trend has been negative as wetlands on western Long Island have been destroyed and the historical habitat on eastern Long Island has also been reduced or changed. Research is needed to determine the specific habitat preference of this species since it occurs in small portions of larger wetlands. This would help develop a better search image for habitat and improve predictive modeling. Efforts to augment populations should also be studied (NYNHP 2023, 2024).

I. Status

a. Current legal protected Status

i. Federal:

Candidate:

ii. New York:

Endangered

b. Natural Heritage Program

i. Global: G4G5

ii. New York: S1S2 Tracked by NYNHP? On Active Tracking List

Other Ranks:

COSEWIC: Not listed in Canada
IUCN Red List: Least Concern

Status Discussion:

Gaylussacia bigeloviana is Endangered in New York (Ring 2023). There are five existing populations of bog huckleberry in NY with over 1000 plants total in the state. However, only one of them is large and protected on a NYS DEC Wildlife Management Area. There are 18 historical occurrences. Some of them need to be resurveyed, but many are considered extirpated (NYNHP 2023, 2024).

II. Abundance and Distribution

Region	Present?	Abundance	Distribution	Time Frame	Listing status or S-Rank	SGCN?
North America	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		
Northeastern US	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		
New York	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	E	
Connecticut	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	S2	
Massachusetts	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	S4	
New Jersey	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	SNR	
Pennsylvania	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	SH	
Vermont	No	-	-	-		
Ontario	No	-	-	-		
Quebec	No	-	-	-		

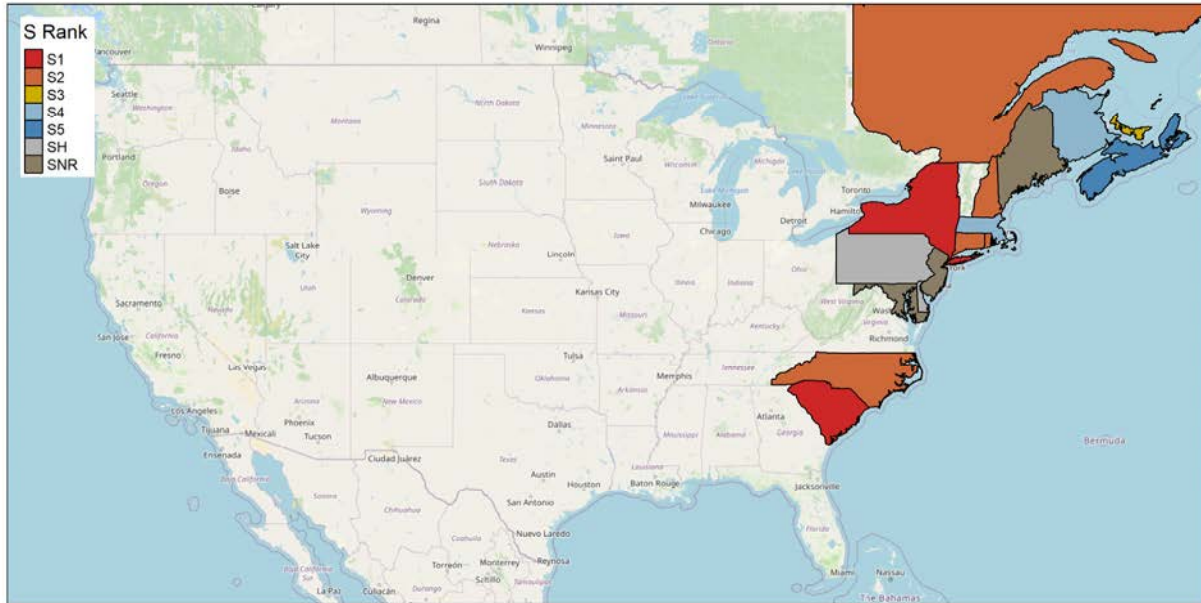


Figure 11: *Gaylussacia bigeloviana* North American distribution.

Percent of North American Range in NY	Classification of NY Range	Distance to core population, if not in NY
1-25%	Core	Unknown

III. NY Rarity and Trends

Trends Discussion

Short-term trends of bog huckleberry are unknown, but possibly stable since only one population has been resurveyed recently and its condition has stayed the same. The long-term trend has been negative as wetlands on western Long Island have been destroyed and the historical habitat on eastern Long Island has also been reduced or changed (NYNHP 2023, 2024).

Details of historic and current occurrence

In New York, bog huckleberry is known from Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley.

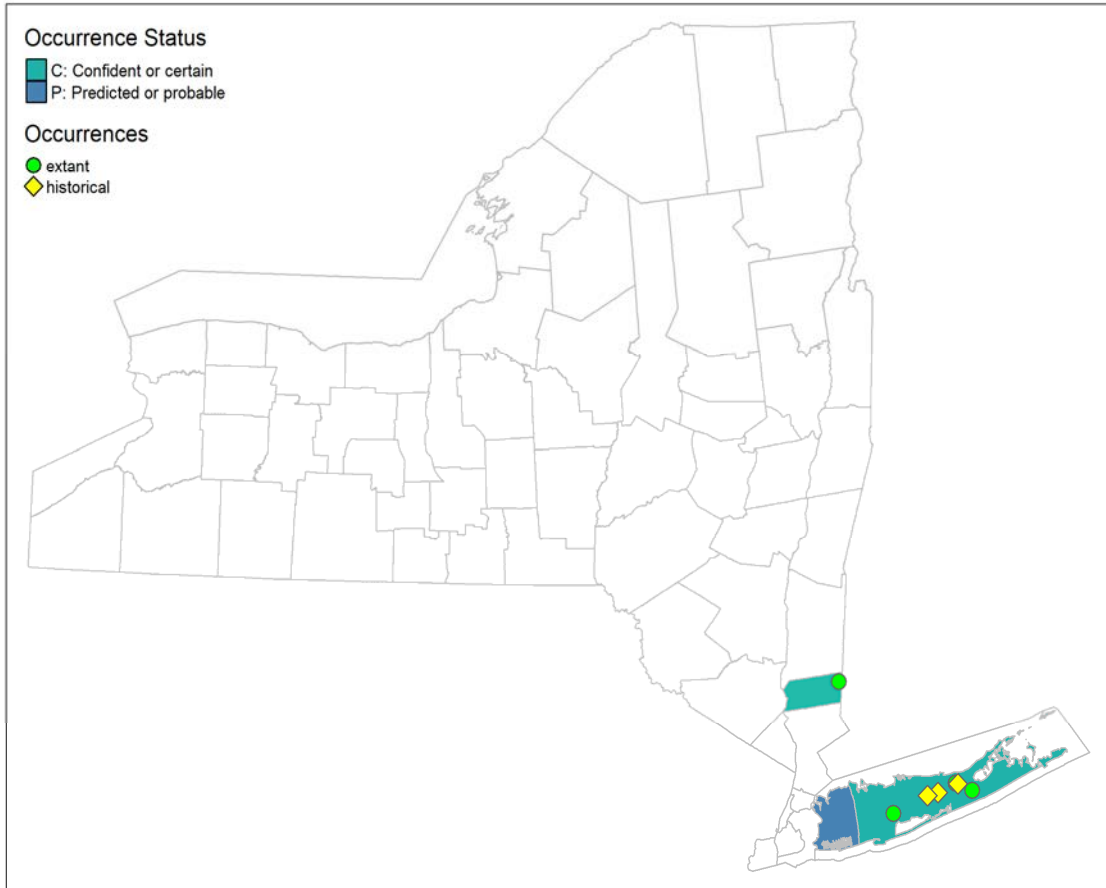


Figure 22: NYS distribution for *Gaylussacia bigeloviana*.

Table 1. Number of records (element occurrences) of *Gaylussacia bigeloviana* grouped by the dates known to be extant (the years spanning first observation to last observation) and the number and percent of total of USGS 7.5 minute map quadrangles these observations fall within for New York State.

Years	# of Records	# of distinct quads	% of quads in State
Pre-1995	4	5	0.5
1995-2004	4	4	0.4
2005-2014	1	1	0.1
2015-2023	1	1	0.1

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