



## Screwstems

*Bartonia* spp.

HERBS: NON-WOODY PLANTS



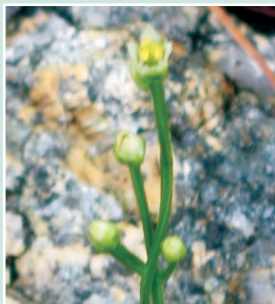
Yellow Screwstem © ALAIN BELLIVEAU



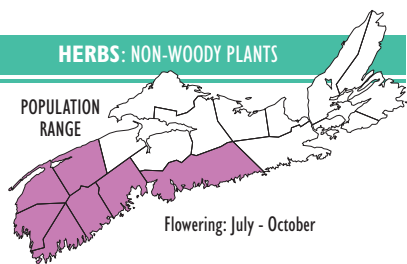
Screwstem © ALAIN BELLIVEAU



Yellow Screwstem flower © ALAIN BELLIVEAU



Screwstem flowers © SEAN BLANEY



**SIZE:** 10-40 cm tall.

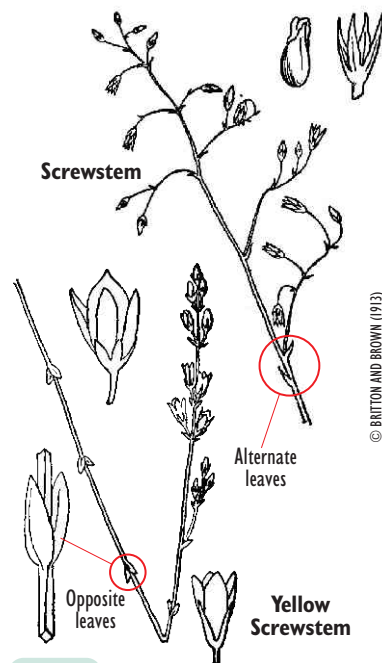
**LEAVES:** Reduced to small scales on the stem.

**STEM:** Slender, wiry, and spiral or twining.

**FLOWERS:** 3-4 mm long with bell-shaped whitish petals. Arranged in a tight spiral when in bud. The sepals are deeply lobed.

**FRUITS:** Capsules, 2-3 cm long.

**NOTES:** These two species may cross-breed with each other and produce a hybrid species (a mix between the two).



### Habitat:

Peaty or cobble lakeshores, wetlands (bogs) and acidic moist areas. Yellow Screwstem may also be found in dry barrens. The range map shows the distribution of Yellow Screwstem (Screwstem is more widespread).

**Interesting point:** These species are mycotrophic, meaning they obtain their nutrients from fungi in the soil rather than from the sun. That is why their leaves are so small!

**Similar Species:** No similar species other than each other. *Bartonia paniculata* ssp. *paniculata* is not believed to occur in NS.

### Screwstem

*Bartonia paniculata*  
ssp. *iodandra*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

☐☐ Distribution: NS, NB, NL

Small scale-like leaves alternate on stem (some of the leaves on the lower part of the stem could be opposite).  
White to greenish-white petals.

### Yellow Screwstem

*Bartonia virginica*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

☐☐☐ Distribution: NS, NB, NL, QC, ON  
(rare in other provinces)

Small scale-like leaves paired on the stem (opposite). Yellowish-white petals.