



Species at Risk Profile Series: Slender Mouse-ear-cress



- Slender Mouse-ear-cress is listed as Threatened in Canada.
- Look for a plant covered in fine grey hairs, with toothed leaves circling the base of the plant. It has small, white, 4-petaled flowers and long, thin seed pods.
- It is a biennial plant, so it germinates in its first year and then flowers in its second year.
- It flowers from late May to early June.
- Seed pods split open by mid-July, releasing many tiny seeds.
- Seeds can remain dormant for many years until conditions are right, making it difficult to predict where plants will occur.
- More plants germinate in years of high precipitation.
- If enough moisture is not received, young plants will dry out and die.
- It is found in moist sites, often at the base of sand dunes or slopes.





Conservation

- Long-term Slender Mouse-ear-crec population trends are currently unknown.
- Trends are difficult to see due to the effects of precipitation on germination.
- Major threats are associated with habitat loss and degradation.
- Native grasslands are required, but most have been converted to agriculture.
- Oil and gas drilling can reduce available habitat and introduce non-native plants.
- It is often associated with light grazing.

Get involved

- Read the recovery strategy Slender Mouse-ear-crec [here](#).
- Allow light grazing in areas where this plant may occur.

Photo credit: Slender Mouse-ear-crec by Melissa Ranalli used with permission (front)
Range map credit: Environment Canada. 2012. Recovery Strategy for the Slender Mouse-ear-crec (*Halimolobos virgata*) in Canada. *Species at Risk Act* Recovery Strategy Series. Environment Canada, Ottawa. v + 45 pp.