

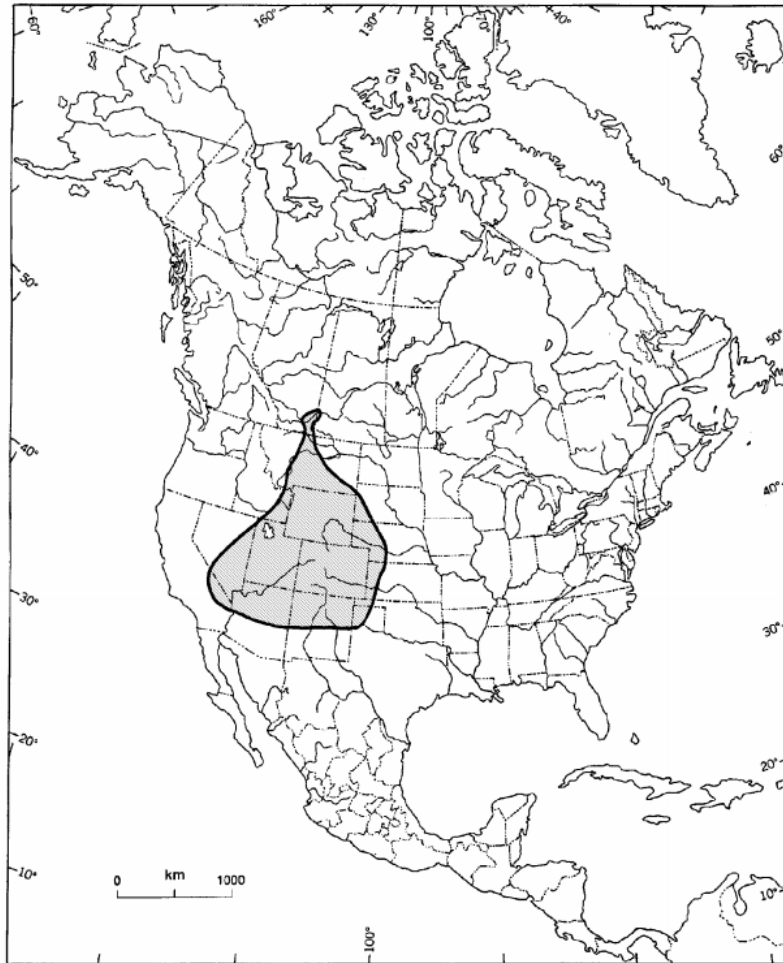


Species at Risk Profile Series: Small-flowered Sand-verbena



- Small-flowered Sand-verbena is listed as Endangered in Canada.
- Look for a 20-50 cm (8-20 in) plant whose thick, round stems trail along the ground. It has rounded leaves and tiny, whitish-green flowers.
- The fruits have pink 'wings' to aid in dispersal, and resemble flowers.
- Flowering occurs from May to July.
- It is a member of the "four o'clock" family, because flowers open in the late afternoon.
- It is found in dry, sandy environments and must have active sand dunes.
- It is an annual plant, but the seeds remain dormant until suitable conditions occur.
- Suitable conditions include warm spring temperatures and excess soil moisture.
- Seeds are covered in a covering that softens from prolonged exposure to moisture. This prevents premature germination following a short rainstorm.





Conservation

- Habitat loss, particularly due to sand dune stabilization, is the greatest threat to Small-flowered Sand-verbena.
- Dune stabilization occurs when a dune has sufficient vegetation to halt the movement of the dune's sand particles.
- Most active sand dunes are on lands used for cattle grazing.
- Invasive species reduce diversity and habitat quality.

Get involved

- Read the assessment report for Small-flowered Sand-verbena [here](#).
- Allow minor grazing around sand dunes to prevent dune stabilization.

Photo credit: Small-flowered Sand-verbena by Melissa Ranalli used with permission (front)
Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2002. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Small-flowered Sand-verbena *Tripterocalyx micranthus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. vi + 26 pp.