



# Furbish's lousewort (*Pedicularis furbishiae*)

**Description:** The Furbish's lousewort is an herbaceous perennial and member of the snapdragon family. Its distinctive, fern-like hairy leaves (4 to 20 cm long) grow in a basal rosette and up the stem. In late July and August, reproductive plants send up a flowering spike (scape) up to one m tall, with a cluster of tubular, yellow flowers two cm long, each subtended by a stout bract. The fruits are oval capsules with small (2mm long), gray seeds. The common bumblebee, *Bombus vagans*, is the primary pollinator. Like all louseworts, the plant is hemiparasitic, requiring connection to a host plant through haustoria on the roots.

**Habitat:** The Furbish's lousewort occurs on the banks of the St. John River in northern Maine. It is found in patches of shrub- or herb-dominated vegetation between the forest and river edge. It prefers moist substrates, but will also occur on dry, steep river banks. It prefers cool microhabitats, and is almost always found in the shade of trees on the south (shaded) bank of the river.



**Occurrence in Maine:** The Furbish's lousewort is endemic to the St. John River in Maine and New Brunswick. It occurs only in Aroostook County in the towns of Allagash, Fort Kent, Frenchville, Hamlin, St. Francis, St. John Plantation, T16 R12, T14 R13, T14, R14, T15 R13, and T16 R12.

