

APPENDIX B

Global and State Rankings

Ranks are based on a system developed by The Nature Conservancy to measure rarity of a species. Each species is given a global rank to indicate degree of rarity worldwide and a state rank to reflect the degree of rarity within the state. The primary criteria for ranking species is the total number of documented occurrences or populations with consideration given to the total number of individuals within each population. Ranks for individual species are updated annually and are based on current knowledge. State and Global ranks are used to prioritize conservation and protection efforts so that the rarest of species receives immediate attention.

GLOBAL RANK

- G1** Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences), or because of some factor(s) making it especially vulnerable to extinction.
- G2** Imperiled globally because of rarity (6–20 occurrences), or because of some other factor(s) making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.
- G3** Either very rare and local throughout its range (21 to 100 occurrences), or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range (e.g., a physiographic region), or because of some other factor(s) making it vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.

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- G4** Apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- G5** Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- GH** Historically known, with the expectation that it may be rediscovered.
- GX** Species believed to be extinct throughout its range with no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
- GU** Possibly in peril range-wide but status uncertain; more information is needed.
- G?** Species has not yet been ranked.
- GNE** Exotic in the United States (e.g., Japanese honeysuckle).
- Q** If a taxon is treated as a full species, a qualifying “Q” is added after the global rank to denote its questionable taxonomic assignment.
- T** Global ranks containing a “T” qualifier denote that the infraspecific taxon is being ranked differently than the full species. For example, *Hydrocotyle verticillata* var. *triradiata* is ranked G5T? The full species is globally secure (G5), but the global rarity of the var. *triradiata* has not been determined (T?).

STATE RANK

- S1** Extremely rare; typically 5 or fewer known occurrences in the state; or only a few remaining individuals; may be especially vulnerable to extirpation.
- S2** Very rare; typically between 6 and 20 known occurrences; may be susceptible to becoming extirpated.
- S3** Rare to uncommon; typically 21 to 50 known occurrences; S3 ranked species are not yet susceptible to becoming extirpated in the state but may be if additional populations are destroyed.
- S4** Common; apparently secure under present conditions; typically 51 or more known occurrences, but may be fewer with many large populations; usually not susceptible to immediate threats.
- S5** Very common; demonstrably secure under present conditions.
- SU** Status uncertain; a species thought to be uncommon in the state, but there is inadequate data to determine rarity. Also includes uncommon species of uncertain nativity in the state and of questionable taxonomic standing.
- SH** Historically known from the state but not verified for an extended period (usually 15+ years); there are expectations that the species may be rediscovered.
- SX** Species has been determined or presumed to be extirpated. All historical occurrences have been searched, or all known sites have been destroyed, and a thorough search of potential habitat has been completed.

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SE Exotic or introduced in the state, not a part of the native flora; may be native elsewhere in North America (e.g., western United States).

SR Reported from the state, but without persuasive documentation that would provide a basis for either accepting or rejecting the report.

SRF Species reported falsely (in error) from the state, but this error persists in the literature.

.1 To date, only a single occurrence or population of this species has been documented.

SA A species which occasionally accidentally enters the state.

SC A species which casually enters the state on a periodic basis but there is no evidence of reproduction or of potential reproductive habitat existing within the state.

S? Species has not yet been ranked.

For long distance migrant animals a particular species' breeding status may be very different than its nonbreeding status, i.e., a species which winters commonly in Delaware may be a rare breeder within the state. "B" and "N" qualifiers are used to denote breeding and nonbreeding status respectively. For example, the Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) is a common winter resident but a very rare breeder and is, therefore, ranked S1B,S4N. A "Z" qualifier is used to denote species which regularly migrate or winter in Delaware, but do not maintain definable occurrences during such periods. For lepidoptera species, however, a SZB rank can be given for those individuals which regularly migrate through the state, breed, but no individuals survive to maturity.

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