

Haemodoraceae bloodwort family

Worldwide, there are about 100 species of these mostly southern hemispheric plants, in 16 genera. Two reach Nova Scotia, both with very limited distribution. Typically, ours are 30–60 cm tall and unbranched with long linear leaves, reducing in length upwards along the stem. The inflorescence is a panicle, freely branching and comprising woolly yellowish flowers.

Key to genera

Stamens 6; ovary only half inferior.

Lophiola

Stamens 3; ovary wholly inferior.

Lachnanthes

Lachnanthes Elliott redroot

A monotypic genus, this herb has a restricted distribution in Nova Scotia. It may be distinguished on the presence of red sap and the pale yellow flowers.

***Lachnanthes caroliana* (Lam.) Dandy**
(=*L. tinctoria* (JF Gmel.) Elliot)
Redroot; lachnanthe de Caroline



Photo by Sean Blaney



The inflorescence is compact and thinly tomentose. Flowers are light yellow, with loosely spreading corollas, almost concealing the branches of the inflorescence. They are regular and three-merous. Ovaries are inferior. Plants have a yellowish-green cast.

Flowering from July through to September.

Grows in lacustrine marshes and shores.

Very rare and known only from shorelines of eight lakes of the Medway River system.

Range includes NS; MA, south to FL, LA and TX.

STATUS: RED-listed in NS; Species of Concern in Canada.

Photo by David Mazerolle



Photo by Sean Blaney



Lachnanthes caroliana

***Lophiola* Ker-Gawlor golden-crest**

Distinctive in appearance, this herbaceous wetland species is also a monotypic genus. The inflorescence branches and flowers are covered in a white tomentum. Flowers are brilliant yellow. The long narrow leaves are erect. Like *Lachnanthes*, it is a representative of the coastal plain flora in Nova Scotia.

***Lophiola aurea* Ker-Gawlor**
Golden-crest; Goldcrest; lophiolie dorée



Photo by Ross Hall



Photo by David Mazerolle



About 50cm tall, its leaves are mostly basal and only 30cm in length. The freely branching inflorescence contains numerous white-woolly flowers, with six stamens. Upon first opening, they are showy, but soon close or contract.

Grows in wet acidic soils on lakeshores and fens.

Rare and known only in southwestern counties, from Digby Neck around to Lunenburg counties.

Limited to NS; NJ, DE; NC; GA south to FL and LA.

Nationally listed as a Species of Concern; RED-listed in NS.