

Eriocaulaceae

pipewort family

Twelve hundred species split among 13 genera comprise this family. Only one reaches Nova Scotia. They are small tufted submerged plants with acutely pointed basal leaves. The flowers are borne atop a scape, in a lead-coloured button. Vegetative plants are often seen, forming colonies over the substrate.

Eriocaulon L.

Pipewort

It is described above. There are no other aquatic plants resembling this one.

Eriocaulon aquaticum (Hill) Druce

Pipewort



Photo by Sean Blaney

Cespitose species, these plants often form mats in the silty sandy substrate of shallow waters. The long filamentous scape extends above the water surface, bearing a round waxy button of the inflorescence. The vegetative plants are easily separated from other aquatics by the presence of horizontally banded roots. The leaves are also marked by crossveins. The scape is surrounded by a sheath extending upwards for several cms. Sterile plants often form mats in water as deep as 2m.

Flowers and fruits from mid-July through September.

Frequents sandy-silty soil of lakeshores, rarely in flowing water.

Common throughout the southwestern and Atlantic regions.



Photo by Sean Blaney

Found throughout the province.

Ranges from NF to MB, south to NC; western Scotland and Ireland.