

Diapensiaceae

Mostly evergreens, this is a family of herbs or shrubs with basal leaves. Of 18 species, a single one reaches Nova Scotia, and only in northern Cape Breton. Typically flowers are white or pink, perfect and regular. Borne singly or in racemes, each is five-merous, but for the three-parted ovary. Fruits are capsules.

Diapensia L.

A genus of four species, three are Asiatic. Bearing solitary white flowers, the corolla is bell-shaped. It has broadly spreading lobes equal in length to the corolla tube. Style is long and slender and exerted. Fruit is a round capsule.

Diapensia lapponica L. diapensie de Laponie



Densely cespitose, this small plant bears linear leaves terminally on the branches. Leaves are persistent from year to year. White flowers are terminal on pedicels about 3cm long.

Flowers in June and July.

Crevices of cliff edges or north-facing slopes.

Only in northern Cape Breton, Lockhart Brook, Salmon River and the upper Cheticamp River.

Ranges from NL; NS; QC to NY; MB to NU and AK, south to BC. Eurasia.

STATUS: ORANGE-listed.