

# SPECIES AT RISK

## in New Brunswick



Anticosti  
Aster

Scientific name: *Symphiotrichum anticostense*

N.B. Status: Endangered

### Anticosti Aster

#### Description & Biology

Anticosti aster is a plant of seasonally flooded river shores. It has blue showy blossoms, similar to those of many common asters. It is most easily distinguished by its long, narrow leaves that droop in the form of an arch.

As in all asters, what we call *petals* are really altered flowers called *ray flowers*. A cluster of a second kind of tiny flower, called *tube flowers*, forms the centre of the aster blossoms in what often resembles a small button. Thus, what we may think of as a single flower is really composed of many small flowers, all grouped into a single unit.

Anticosti Aster is a perennial plant, which means that it lives for more than two years. The flowers appear anytime from mid-July to the time of the first frosts in late summer or fall.

#### Habitat & Survival

Anticosti Aster colonizes seasonally-flooded gravel banks of our larger fast flowing rivers, in regions with rich soils. It may form dense

clumps and is often difficult to distinguish from other asters. In particular, it resembles and has been known to cross with the more common New York Aster.

Good shoreline stewardship practices, such as leaving natural vegetation in place, are simple and effective steps toward protection of this species.

#### Distribution

The Anticosti Aster is considered to be an endemic to our region. An endemic is a species that is native to or confined to a given area. In New Brunswick, Anticosti Aster is found along the Restigouche River and the upper portion of the Saint-John River. Outside New Brunswick it is restricted to south-eastern Québec and Maine.



NB Distribution of  
Anticosti Aster