

HERITAGE RANKS

APPENDIX A: HERITAGE PROGRAM ELEMENT RANKS

Communities and rare species are the mapping units or "elements" of the Heritage inventory. Each community and species element is assigned an "element rank" consisting of a combined global and state rank. ~~The global rank reflects the~~ rarity of the element throughout the world and the state rank reflects the rarity within New York State (The Nature Conservancy 1982). Global ranks for communities are not currently standardized by The Nature Conservancy, so the ranks listed in the community descriptions are estimated global ranks.

GLOBAL RANKS

- G1 = Critically imperiled throughout its range due to extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream) or extremely vulnerable to extinction due to biological factors.
- G2 = Imperiled throughout its range due to rarity (6 - 20 occurrences, or few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream) or highly vulnerable to extinction due to biological factors.
- G3 = Either very rare throughout its range (21 - 100 occurrences), with a restricted range (but possibly locally abundant), or vulnerable to extinction due to biological factors.
- G4 = Apparently secure throughout its range (but possibly rare in parts of its range).

G5 = Demonstrably secure throughout its range (however it may be rare in certain areas).

GU = Status unknown.

STATE RANKS

S1 = ~~Typically 5 or fewer occurrences, very few~~ remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or especially vulnerable to extirpation in New York State for other reasons.

S2 = Typically 6 to 20 occurrences, few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or very vulnerable to extirpation in New York State for other reasons.

S3 = Typically 21 to 100 occurrences, limited acreage, or miles of stream in New York State.

S4 = Apparently secure in New York State.

S5 = Demonstrably secure in New York State.

SH = No extant sites known in New York State but it may still exist.

SU = State status unknown.

"Q" added to the rank indicates a question exists whether or not the taxon is a distinct taxonomic entity.

"?" added to the rank indicates uncertainty about the rank.