

RECENT REDISCOVERY OF RARE PLANTS OF EPHEMERAL RAINWATER POOLS IN SIOUX QUARTZITE PRAIRIES IN SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA

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Abstract: Sioux Quartzite bedrock exposures are a distinctive feature of prairies and pastures in parts of the Prairie Coteau of southwest Minnesota, southeast South Dakota, and northwest Iowa. In April to mid-June, undisturbed bedrock exposures form short-lived rainwater pools ranging from 0.25 to 10 m.² in size that harbor a distinct aquatic plant flora that does not occur in more permanent wetlands. Recent surveys in Minnesota documented several locations of these species, including *Isoetes melanopoda*, *Marselia vestita*, *Crassula aquatica*, *Limosella aquatica*, *Heteranthera limosa*, and *Elatine triandra*. Several of these species had not been documented in the state since the early 20th century. Management of these areas should take into account bedrock pool microsites in addition to the prairie matrix in which they occur.