Golden Paintbrush

A rare coastal wildflower | *Castilleja levisecta*



A RARE GOLDEN GLOW

Fragile beauty *on the coast*

Bright golden bracts illuminate a sunny maritime meadow. Once found at several Victoria-area locations, Canada's remaining natural populations are restricted to two small coastal islands.

FLOWERING SEASON

Flowers mainly in late April and May in coastal BC, with timing influenced by each season's conditions.

WHERE IT SURVIVES

The two documented natural Canadian populations are on Trial Island and Alpha Islet near Victoria.

A DELICATE FUTURE

Red-listed and S1 in BC (2019). The species remains federally listed as Endangered in Canada.

FIELD NOTES

RECOGNIZE IT

The yellow display is formed mainly by leaf-like bracts surrounding small, less conspicuous flowers.

ROOT CONNECTIONS

This perennial is a root hemiparasite, drawing some water and nutrients from neighbouring plants.

PROTECT ITS HABITAT

Sensitive island sites are not ordinary public-viewing destinations; habitat protection and restoration are essential.

Sources: BC Conservation Data Centre; COSEWIC; Parks Canada.