

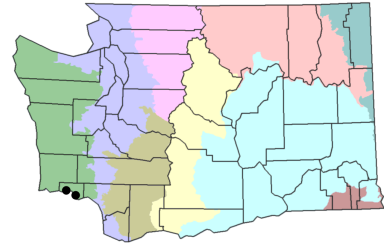
## ***Samolus parviflorus*** Raf.

water pimpernel

Theophrastaceae - joewood family

status: State Sensitive, BLM strategic

rank: G5 / S1



**General Description:** Adapted from Hickman (1993): Light green, hairless, clumping perennial with an erect stem 1.5-4 dm tall. Leaves alternate, 2-5 cm long, entire. Blades obovate to oblong-lanceolate, tips rounded, tapered at the base to a winged petiole.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence a terminal raceme. Pedicels horizontal to ascending, 1-2 cm long, with 1 small leafy bract. Flowers small, 5-parted. Calyx 1-2 mm long, with short, triangular, toothlike lobes. Corolla white, about 1.5 mm wide. Stamens 5, opposite corolla lobes. Ovary partly inferior. Blooms in late June in WA.

**Fruits:** 5-valved, spherical, about 2.5 mm wide.

**Identification Tips:** *Samolus* is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973); there are no other species of the genus in WA. It can be distinguished by a combination of its partly inferior ovary, inflorescences in terminal racemes, and small flowers. Plants tend to form tight clumps or large patches.

**Range:** Widespread, from B.C. south to tropical South America, east to the southern central U.S., north through the eastern U.S. and eastern Canada.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Moist soils or wet rock along streams, in marshes, around lakes, and in seepage areas, generally below 1300 m (5000 ft). In WA it has been found only on sandy and rocky freshwater intertidal beaches along the lower Columbia River. Associated species include Lyngbye's sedge (*Carex lyngbyei*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), Douglas aster (*Symphyotrichum subspicatum* var. *subspicatum*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), and forget-me-not (*Myosotis* spp.).

**Comments:** The few occurrences and limited range in WA contribute to this species' status. Dumping of dredge spoils may be a threat. Hydropower development along the Columbia River has limited potential habitat. This taxon is also rare in UT and several eastern states and Canadian provinces.

**References:** Hickman 1993; Rickett 1971.



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