

Mimulus cusickii (Greene) Rattan

Cusick's monkeyflower
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G4G5S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1959): *Mimulus cusickii* is a low but often rather stout, simple or much-branched annual that is generally up to 9¼ in. (25 cm) tall and is glandular-pubescent and somewhat foul smelling. The leaves are broad, evidently 3 to 5 nerved, and entire. The lower leaves tend to be somewhat oblanceolate and rounded at the tip, while the other leaves are broader. At least the uppermost leaves are pointed at the tip. The leaves are mostly ¼ to 2¾ in. (1 to 7 cm) long and ¼ to 1-1/8 in. (1 to 3 cm) wide. The flowers are sessile (unstalked or short-stalked). The calyx is ¼ to ½ in. (7 to 13 mm) long and strongly glandular-pubescent, with sharp teeth that are 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2 to 4 mm) long. The corolla is rich magenta, marked in the throat with yellow and deeper red, ¾ to 1¼ in. (2 to 3.5 cm) long, evidently two-lipped, and persistent for some time after withering. The fruit capsule is lanceolate, rounded, and longer than the calyx.

Identification Tips: *Mimulus cusickii* is most closely related to *M. nanus*, *M. clivicola*, and *M. tricolor*, all of which also have magenta to purple flowers. These species can be distinguished by the nature of their leaves and the size of their corollas. The leaves of *M. cusickii* are evidently 3 to 5 nerved, the better developed leaves are commonly ¼ to 1-1/8 in. (1 to 3 cm) wide, and at least the upper leaves are broadly ovate or broader. The leaves of *M. nanus*, *M. clivicola*, and *M. tricolor* are narrower and more obscurely nerved, most are less than ½ in. (1.2 cm) wide, and they are seldom ovate. The corolla of *M. cusickii* is ¾ to 1¼ in. (2 to 3.5 cm) long, while the corollas of the other species are ¼ to 1 in. (1 to 2.5 cm) long.

Phenology: In Washington this taxon flowers from late May to June.

Range: This species has been found in the Western Great Basin of California and Nevada north through eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho to the Columbia River Gorge and southeastern Washington. In Washington, *M. cusickii* has been found in Klickitat and Asotin counties.

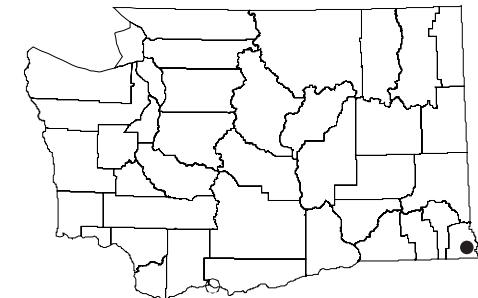
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Known distribution
of *Mimulus cusickii*
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Habitat: Throughout its range this species grows along stream banks and other moist places. In Washington, it has been found east of the Cascades both in bottomlands and on scree derived from degraded basalt in hot canyon bottoms. This plant is also known to grow on sand dunes.

Ecology: *Mimulus cusickii* grows at low elevations in moist habitats in otherwise arid regions.

State Status Comments: The species is known from one historical occurrence and less than 5 recent occurrences.

Inventory Needs: Bottomlands in Jefferson and Asotin counties should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. Known occurrences should be revisited. Updated populations and habitat information should be collected.

Threats and Management Concerns: Current threats include grazing and weed invasion.

References:

Bjork, C. 2003. Personal communication with the Natural Heritage Program. Olympia, Washington.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 510 pp.

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