

***Samolus parviflorus* Raf.**

water pimpernel
Primulaceae (Primrose family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5S1

General Description: Adapted from Hickman (1993): *Samolus parviflorus* is a light green, glabrous, clumping perennial with an erect flower stalk 6 to 16 in. (1.5-4 dm) tall. The leaves are $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 in. (2-5 cm) long, have rounded tips and taper at the base to a winged petiole. The leaves form a rosette at the base, and smaller similar leaves alternate on the stem. The flower stalks are horizontal to ascending and $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (1-2 cm) long with 1 small leafy bract. The leafy bracts beneath the petals are about $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1-2 mm) long, triangular, and tooth-like. The flower is about $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1.5 mm) wide. The flowers are small, white, and cup-shaped, and have 5 petals, sepals, and stamens. The partly inferior ovary bears fruit that is 5-valved and spherical.

Identification Tips: There are no other species of *Samolus* in Washington. *Samolus parviflorus* may be distinguished from all other species of Primulaceae by a combination of its partly inferior ovary and its small flowers terminal inflorescence.

Phenology: This species was observed blooming in Washington in late June.

Range: This is widespread species that occurs from British Columbia south to tropical South America and east to Florida. In Washington this species is only known from Wahkiakum County.

Habitat: This species occurs in moist soils or on wet rock along streams, in marshes, around lakes and in seepage areas, generally below 5000 feet (1300 m). In Washington, it has only been found along the lower Columbia River. Associated species include Lyngbye's sedge (*Carex lyngbyei*), tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), Douglas' aster (*Aster subspicatus*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), common rush (*Juncus effuses*), and forget-me-not (*Myosotis* spp.).

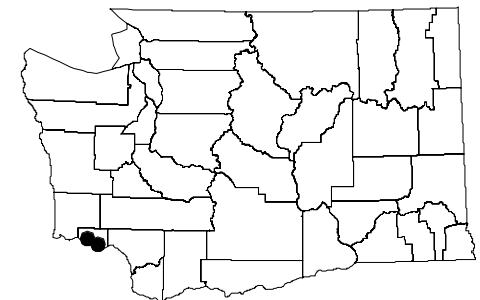
Ecology: *Samolus parviflorus* is an obligate wetland species.

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For an illustration, see *The Jepson Manual*,

Known distribution
of *Samolus parviflorus*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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State Status Comments: This species is known from less than five occurrences, all along the Columbia River. The low occurrence and limited range in Washington contribute to this species' status.

Inventory Needs: Other sites along the lower Columbia River should be investigated. Historic sites should be revisited.

Threats and Management Concerns: Dumping of dredge spoils may be a possible threat to this species. Hydropower development along the Columbia River has limited potential habitat.

Comments: This species is also known as *Samolus valerandi* L. spp. *parviflorus* Raf. The genus *Samolus* does not occur in Hitchcock, as all *S. parviflorus* occurrences were noted after the flora was written.

References:

- Hickman, J.C. 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 1400 pp.
- Kartesz, J.T. 2004. *Synthesis of North American Flora*. Phytosystems Corporation. 1996.
- Rickett, H.W. 1971. *Wildflowers of the United States Volume Five: the Northwestern States*. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. 666 pp.



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