



Photos by Lorna Allen

SQUARE-STEM MONKEYFLOWER

Mimulus ringens L.

FIGWORT FAMILY (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Plants: Slender, **hairless perennial** herbs, **40-130 cm tall**, with **erect, square**, sometimes very narrowly winged **stems** from creeping rhizomes and stolons with fibrous roots .

Leaves: **Opposite**, oblong to lance-shaped, sometimes widest above the middle, tapered to a pointed tip, up to 10 cm long and +2 cm wide, **stalkless**, **usually clasping** at the base, edged with small teeth.

Flowers: **Blue-violet or pinkish** (rarely white) with a yellowish centre, snapdragon-like, **2-3(-4) cm long, tubular and 2-lipped**, borne singly from upper leaf axils on stout, **(1-)2-4.5(-6) cm long stalks** that are longer than the calyx **corolla** with glandular hairs on the upper part of the tube, the throat almost closed by a large, prominent upperpalate, the upper lip 2-lobed and bent upward, the lower lip 3-lobed and spreading; **calyx tubular**, (8-)10-16(-20) mm long, sharply 5-angled, with slender, **1.5-8 mm long, sub-equal teeth**; stigmas with 2, flat, egg-shaped lobes ; stamens 4, attached near the middle of the corolla tube ; late June-September.

Fruits: Hairless, ovoid capsules, about 1 cm long, splitting open lengthwise, with the mature seed-bearing inner part (**placenta**) **separating the tip** closely wrapped in and exceeded by the calyx seeds numerous.

Habitat: Silty shores and floodplains; elsewhere in wet woods and meadows, swamps, marshes; prefers in sandy, loamy soil; sometimes growing in tidal mud.

Status: S1

Notes: This species has also been called Ringen monkeyflower, Allegheny monkey-flower. • Current status is Global G5; United States N5? (Alabama SNR, Arkansas S1S2, California SNR, Colorado SH, Connecticut SNR, Delaware S5, District of Columbia SNR, Georgia SNR, Idaho S1, Illinois SNR, Indiana SNR, Iowa S4, Kansas SNR, Kentucky S5, Louisiana S2, Maine S4, Maryland SNR, Massachusetts SNR, Michigan SNR, Minnesota SNR, Mississippi S1S2, Missouri SNR, Montana S1, Nebraska SNR, New Hampshire SNR, New Jersey SNR, New York S5, North Carolina S4, North Dakota SNR, Ohio SNR, Oklahoma SNR, Oregon SNR, Pennsylvania SNR, Rhode Island SNR, South Carolina SNR, South Dakota SNR, Tennessee SNR, Texas SNR, Vermont SNR, Virginia SNR, West Virginia S5, Wisconsin SNR) and Canada NNR (Alberta S1, Manitoba S4, New Brunswick S4S5, Nova Scotia S4S5, Ontario S5, Prince Edward Island S3, Quebec S4S5). First discovered in Alberta at La Butte Creek Wildland Provincial Park in 2005. • The Iroquois boiled the roots of these plants with other herbs to make medicines for treating women with epilepsy and washes for counteracting poison. • The species name, *ringens*, means 'gaping'. • Due to the presence of both rhizomes and stolons, it can be difficult to delineate individual plants.

