



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Macranthera flammea (Bartr.) Pennell
Flameflower, Orange Blackherb



Photo by L. Urbatsch

Identification: Large, coarse, stiff and brittle annual or biennial herb, mostly 15-30 dm tall. Stem obtusely 4-angled, retorsely pubescent above, glabrous below, essentially unbranched to the widely spreading inflorescence. Leaves opposite, sessile or with short winged petioles; blades glabrous or the margins sometimes minutely ciliate, 8-10 cm long, lanceolate to ovate, pinnately lobed, progressively reduced upwardly and the uppermost shallowly lobed, toothed, or entire; lower leaves usually shed by anthesis. Flowers borne on long racemose branches, each flower axillary to a reduced, usually entire, foliar bract. Flower stalks 1-2 cm long, becoming reflexed in fruit. Calyx about 1.5 cm long, the 5 lobes equal, linear, much longer than the tube. Corolla bright orange, fleshy, 2-2.5 cm long, short-pubescent without, glabrous or slightly pubescent at the base within, the tube cylindrical, much longer than the lobes; limb 2-lipped, lower erect, 2-lobed, upper spreading, 3-lobed. Stamens 4, equal, exserted contiguous to each other, the lanose filaments about twice as long as the corolla tube. Ovary ovoid, the style slender, about 3 cm long, the stigma linear-clavate. Capsule 1.5-1.8 cm long, short pubescent, loculicidally dehiscent. Seeds brownish-black, 2.5-3 mm long, about half as wide, irregular in shape, angular-lunate to triangular, with 2 or 3 fluted membranous wings.

Key ID characters:

- Plant 15-30 dm tall.
- Leaves opposite, sessile (or with short winged petioles), and pinnately lobed.
- 5 calyx lobes.
- Corolla bright orange, fleshy, and up to 2.5 cm long.



M. flammea from *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Southeastern United States: Dicotyledons* by Godfrey and Wooten. Copyright ©1979 University of Georgia Press, Athens, reproduced by permission of the publisher

Habitat: Bogs and wet boggy thickets, edges of shrub-tree bogs or bays, occasionally in shallow water of cypress-gum ponds or depressions.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Scrophulariaceae. There are no other species of the genus *Macranthera* known to LA.

Status:

Wetland: OBL - Obligate Wetland
Global: G3 - Vulnerable



State: S2 - Imperiled

Baygall Margin

Range: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

Soils: Organic, acidic soils.

Similar Species: *Macranthera flammea* is the only member of its genus present in LA's flora. Furthermore, there are no other members in Scrophulariaceae that share the above mentioned characters, making this species fairly easy to identify.

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss and degradation.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:

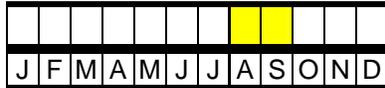
St Tammany, Washington

Dates of Natural Heritage Program

Observations:

1936, 1967, 1975, 1986, 1987(2), 1988(2), 1989(2), 1993, 1995, 1996(2)

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

References :

USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, VA, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

Thomas, R. Dale, and Charles M. Allen. *Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Louisiana, Vol. III: Dicotyledons, Fabaceae-Zygophyllaceae*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, 1998.

Godfrey, Robert K., and Jean W. Wooten. *Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States: Dicotyledons*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1981.

Radford, Albert E., Harry E. Ahles, and C. Ritchie Bell. *Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968.