

# Rare Plants of Louisiana

## *Mimulus ringens* - square-stemmed monkey flower Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State		■			
Global					■
	imperiled		rare		secure

**Range:** Eastern half of Canada and US, except FL; several western states.

### Recognition:

- Plants ca 0.3 to 1 m tall, perennial
- Leaves opposite, sessile, sometimes clasping the stem
- Angles of the stem rounded and NOT winged (the common *M. alatus* has sharp winged angles on the stem)
- Flowers lavender, with two lips: upper with 2 petals and lower with 3; when fully open, flowers resemble a monkey face (use a little imagination!)
- Pedicels (flower stalks) relatively long, 17 to 40 mm



**Flowering Time:** April to September (to November) (stage of development depends on water levels)

**Light Requirement:** Full sun to part shade

### Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – almost always in wetlands

### Habitat:

Louisiana occurrences are on sand bars, banks, and in battures of large rivers such as the lower Atchafalaya and Mississippi.

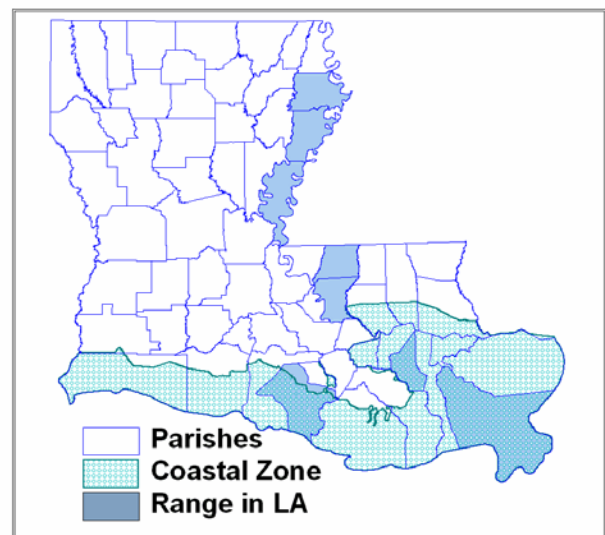
### Threats:

- Channel dredging and spoil deposition
- Lock and dam construction and operation
- Shoreline stabilization, e.g. lining river banks with rock (“rip-rap”)

### Beneficial Management Practices:

Work with Corps of Engineers regarding conservation management of sand bars and river banks

**LA River Basins:** Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche, Red, Ouachita



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**Top left:** *M. ringens* stem showing sessile leaves and long flower stalks

**Above:** Whole plant of *M. ringens*

**Left:** *M. ringens* habitat, margin of sandbar on Mississippi River; area recently inundated and then exposed; the larger broad-leaved plants are cottonwood seedlings.

## References:

Lester, G. D., S. G. Sorensen, P. L. Faulkner, C. S. Reid, and I. E. Maxit. 2005. Louisiana comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Baton Rouge, LA.

NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

Vincent, K. A. 1982. Scrophulariaceae of Louisiana. MS Thesis, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.

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For more information, please visit our Web pages at

<http://www.wlf.la.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program> or 225-765-2811

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