

# ***Ammannia robusta*** Heer and Regel

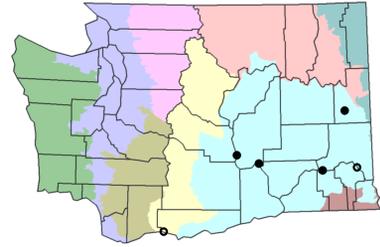
synonym: *Ammannia coccinea* Rottb.

grand redstem

Lythraceae - loosestrife family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1



**General Description:** Hairless annual wetland herb 5-40 cm tall; stems erect to decumbent, solitary to branched. Leaves oblong to oblong-lanceolate, 2-4 cm x 2-8 mm, opposite, sessile, and heart-shaped to clasping at the base.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers in clusters of 1-5, nearly sessile in the leaf axils, inconspicuous, 4-parted. Calyx with sepals united, forming a spherical to urn-shaped hypanthium 2-3 mm long, becoming up to 5 mm in fruit, often 4-angled. Petals pale lavender, withering early or sometimes lacking, the blade about 1 mm long. Stamens 4, exserted beyond the calyx; anthers pale yellow. Style slightly exserted, 1-1.5 mm long. Flowers May to June.

**Fruits:** Capsules membranous, nearly spherical, about 4 mm long, rupturing irregularly at maturity.

**Identification Tips:** *Ammannia robusta* is the only member of its genus known in WA. Species in the genus *Rotala* have usually 1 flower per leaf axil, petioled leaves, styles less than 1 mm, and capsules that open along regular septa.

**Range:** B.C. to CA, east to Ontario and TN, and south to South America.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Shoreline and islands along the Columbia River, in riparian mudflats dominated by annual species; also known from lakeshores in the channelled scablands. Sites are inundated until midsummer and periodically throughout the growing season, depending on upstream management of the river. These riverine emergent wetland communities were once widely distributed along the Columbia and Snake rivers, but inundation due to hydroelectric development has reduced their extent and quality. Soils are fine, muddy, sandy or silty, and sometimes moderately alkaline. Associated species include toothcup (*Rotala ramosior*), needle spike-rush (*Eleocharis acicularis*), flatsedge (*Cyperus* spp.), southern mudwort (*Limosella aquatica*), yellowseed false pimpernel (*Lindernia dubia*), and occasionally persistent sepal yellowcress (*Rorippa columbiae*).

**Comments:** Two historical sites in WA are now behind dams; 1 site is permanently flooded, while the status of the other is unknown. This species is highly vulnerable to hydrologic changes and invasion of exotic species, such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Also rare in Canada, WI, and WY; possibly extirpated in MT.

**References:** Hickman 1993.

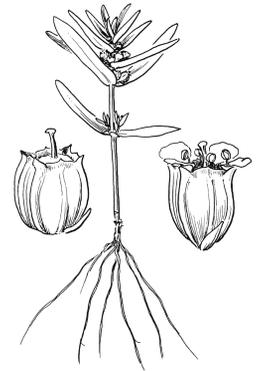


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