

Rotala ramosior (L.) Koehne. Annual or perennial herb, fibrous-rooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, unbranched above, often with creeping, prostrate stems rooted at nodes, flowering shoots erect to decumbent, (5–)9–30 cm tall; shoots with conspicuously ranked cauline leaves and bractlets in 4 vertical files, green or reddish, glabrous. **Stems:** 4-sided, ± 1 mm diameter, 2 sides concave between the ridges descending from each leaf and 2 convex below each leaf, tough, internodes to 20 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate and subopposite, simple, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole short, indistinct from blade; blade narrowly oblanceolate or narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate-linear, (5–)10–25 \times 1–4.5 mm, long-tapered at base, entire, acute at tip, faintly pinnately veined appearing 1-veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, dull green. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary (2 flowers per node), sessile, bracteate, glabrous; bractlet subtending flower leaflike; bracteoles subtending flower 2, awl-like, 0.8–1 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 1.5 mm; hypanthium (floral tube) bell-shaped, in range 2–3 mm long increasing to 4.5 mm and urn-shaped to bell-shaped or subspheroid in fruit, appendaged, the appendages (epicalyx lobes) triangular awl-like, persistent; **sepals** 4, alternate with hypanthium appendages, ascending, broadly deltate, ca. 1 mm, green; **petals** 4, opposite hypanthium appendages, obovate, 0.7–1 \times 0.5 mm, white to pinkish, early-deciduous; **stamens** 4(–6), typically opposite sepals, free but inserted on hypanthium below rim, included; filaments short, whitish; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.3 mm long, pale greenish yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, \pm spheric, pale green, glabrous, (3–)4-chambered with many ovules per chamber attached to center and base; style cylindrical, ca. 1 mm long; stigma capitate. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, dehiscent by (2)4 valves top-to-bottom, many-seeded (appearing free-central), spheroid to subspheroid, 3–3.5 \times 2.5–3 mm, with transverse stripes; hidden by papery, brown hypanthium. **Seed:** hemi-ovoid with fine tip, ca. 0.5 mm long, glossy brown, minutely pitted.

Naturalized. Perennial herb (probably) collected once in range from a wetland location near the northwestern boundary, but not observed recently. *Rotala ramosior* is very similar in design to *Ammannia coccinea*, and can grow in the same habitat but also in irrigated agricultural fields. The way to distinguish toothcup is that its leaves are narrowed to a short petiole, there is only one flower per axil, and the petals are mostly white to light rose. It seems probably that *Ammannia* and *Rotala* should be included in the same genus.
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