

*Veronica anagallis-aquatica* L., WATER SPEEDWELL. Aquatic perennial herb, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted at nodes of submersed stems, 1–several-stemmed at base, often with paired branches at each node, decumbent to erect, 10–60(–100) cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrous. **Stems:** cylindric to  $\pm$  4-sided on basal internodes, mostly 4–8 mm in diameter, green turning purplish rose especially on lower stems; pith wide and  $\pm$  spongy, becoming hollow within the widest stems. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile (short-petiolate for first leaves of a new basal shoot), without stipules; blade elliptic to ovate or lanceolate, 25–55  $\times$  10–15 mm, shallowly serrate to subentire on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** panicle with paired axillary racemes at each node, terminal and axillary, raceme many-flowered, to 150 mm long, bracteate, glabrous or essentially so; bract subtending raceme leaflike; bractlet subtending pedicel linear-lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 3–12 mm long, green, entire; pedicel alternate to subopposite or opposite, spreading to ascending, slender, 4–8 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 6.3–7.5 mm across; receptacle  $\pm$  0.5 mm tall; **calyx** deeply 4-lobed; tube < 0.3 mm long; lobes  $\pm$  equal, lanceolate to elliptic, in range 2.5–3.2  $\times$  1.2–1.5 mm increasing to 5 mm long in fruit, green; **corolla** 4-lobed; tube 0.5–0.8 mm long, yellow, internally white-pilose; lobes unequal, the 3 larger lobes  $\pm$  rhombic, 2.5–3  $\times$  2.5–3.5 mm, the lower lobe ovate to rhombic, 2.5–2.8  $\times$  2–2.4 mm, pale lavender to pale purple or blue-violet, with strong purple to strong violet veins; **stamens** 2, fused to base of corolla tube; filaments narrowly club-shaped, 2–3.5 mm long, light yellow and glabrous at base to pale lavender to pale violet and short-papillate approaching tip; anthers versatile, dithecal, 1–1.5 mm long, pale to light violet, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 2-lobed,  $\pm$  1.2 mm long, green, strongly compressed  $\perp$  septum, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style expanding to tip, 2.6–3 mm long, lavender to light purplish pink; stigma papillate, white, often touching anthers. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal and septicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded ( $\pm$  75–85 seeds),  $\pm$  cloven foot-shaped, 3.5–4  $\times$  3–3.3 mm. **Seed:** elliptic to ovate or oblong in outline, 0.5–0.6 mm long, orange-brown or almond-colored, flat on hilum side and convex on other side, irregularly textured. January–December.

Naturalized. Aquatic perennial herb common throughout the range in shallow water and on margins of creeks, ponds, and runoff or drainage channels wet essentially all the time. *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* is a plant with opposite decussate leaf arrangement and paired inflorescences at the nodes. Flowers are mostly interpreted as blue or pale blue, due to light reflectance, whereas the pigments are actually closer to violet or purple when viewed under artificial light and magnification.

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