



Common Name: FRASER'S LOOSESTRIFE

Scientific Name: *Lysimachia fraseri* Duby

Other Commonly Used Names: none

Previously Used Scientific Names: none

Family: Primulaceae (primrose) or Myrsinaceae (myrsine)

Rarity Ranks: G3/S1

State Legal Status: Rare

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: FAC

Description: Perennial **herb** with stout, erect stems 2.5 - 5 feet (80 - 150 cm) tall, the upper stem covered with tiny, black-tipped hairs. **Leaves** at midstem $2\frac{3}{8}$ - 6 inches (6 - 15 cm) long and $\frac{3}{4}$ - $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches (2 - 6 cm) wide, lance-shaped, in whorls of 3 - 6 leaves (sometimes opposite near base of stem), covered with purple or black dots, and with a very narrow, red band around the leaf edges (10x magnification recommended). **Flowers** in a loosely branched **cluster**, up to 10 inches (25 cm) tall, at the top of the plant, covered with tiny, black-tipped hairs. **Flower** up to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch (1.5 cm) wide; **sepals** 5, narrow and pointed, visible between the petals, with black-tipped hairs on red margins; **petals** 5, spreading, solid yellow (not spotted). **Fruit** a round capsule, about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3 - 4 cm) wide.

Similar Species: Whorled loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*) may occur with Fraser's loosestrife. It has 4 leaves per whorl and single flowers on slender stalks arising from the junction of leaf and stem; flowers are yellow with purple streaks and spots.

Related Rare Species: Bog-candles (*Lysimachia terrestris*, Special Concern) is known from one site in Towns County. Its leaves are opposite, not whorled, and lack red margins; the flowers are yellow with a maroon throat, held in narrow spikes. It occurs on stream banks and in wet meadows.

Habitat: Open gravel bars and stream banks; edges of granite and sandstone outcrops; sunny, rocky slopes; rocky, wet, open roadsides.

Life History: Whorled loosestrife is a perennial herb that reproduces both sexually (primarily by outcrossing) and vegetatively (by rhizomes). Plants in heavily shaded locations may not flower for years but once a sunny opening is created – by fire, stream scour, or hand-clearing – plants will flower and fruit vigorously. The seeds are dispersed by gravity and water.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (mid-June–July) and fruiting (September–October).

Range: Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Illinois.

Threats: Destruction of habitat by clearing, logging, mining, and development. Plants require low level disturbance – such as fire, stream scouring, or other natural process – to maintain sunny conditions and eliminate weedy competitors.

Georgia Conservation Status: Eighteen populations are known, 14 on National Forest and state conservation lands.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Protect streamsides and rock outcrops from disturbance. Avoid logging and clearing on slopes and along streams. Maintain naturally open sites with prescribed fire and hand-clearing. Protect roadside populations from mowing and herbicide applications.

Selected References:

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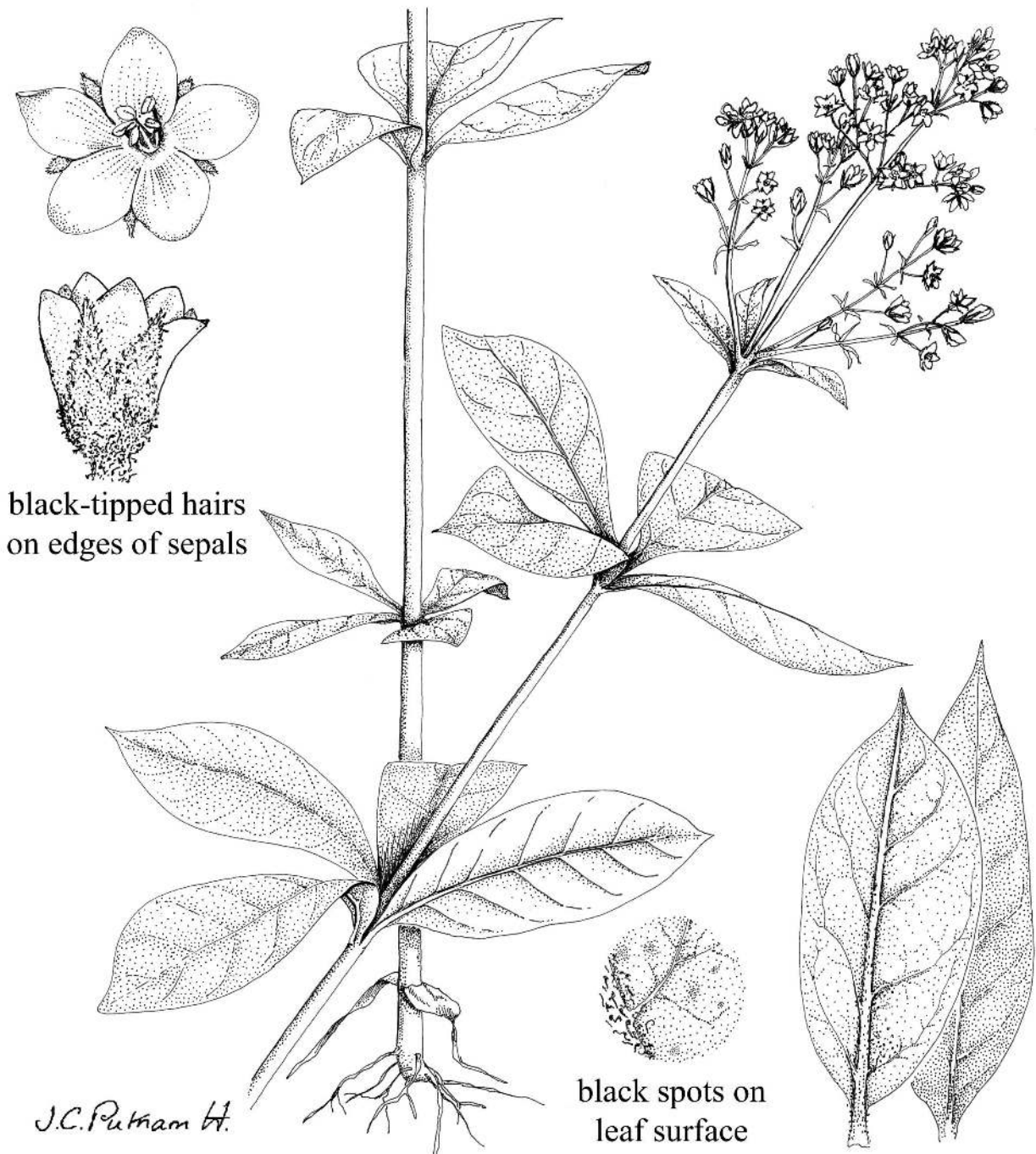
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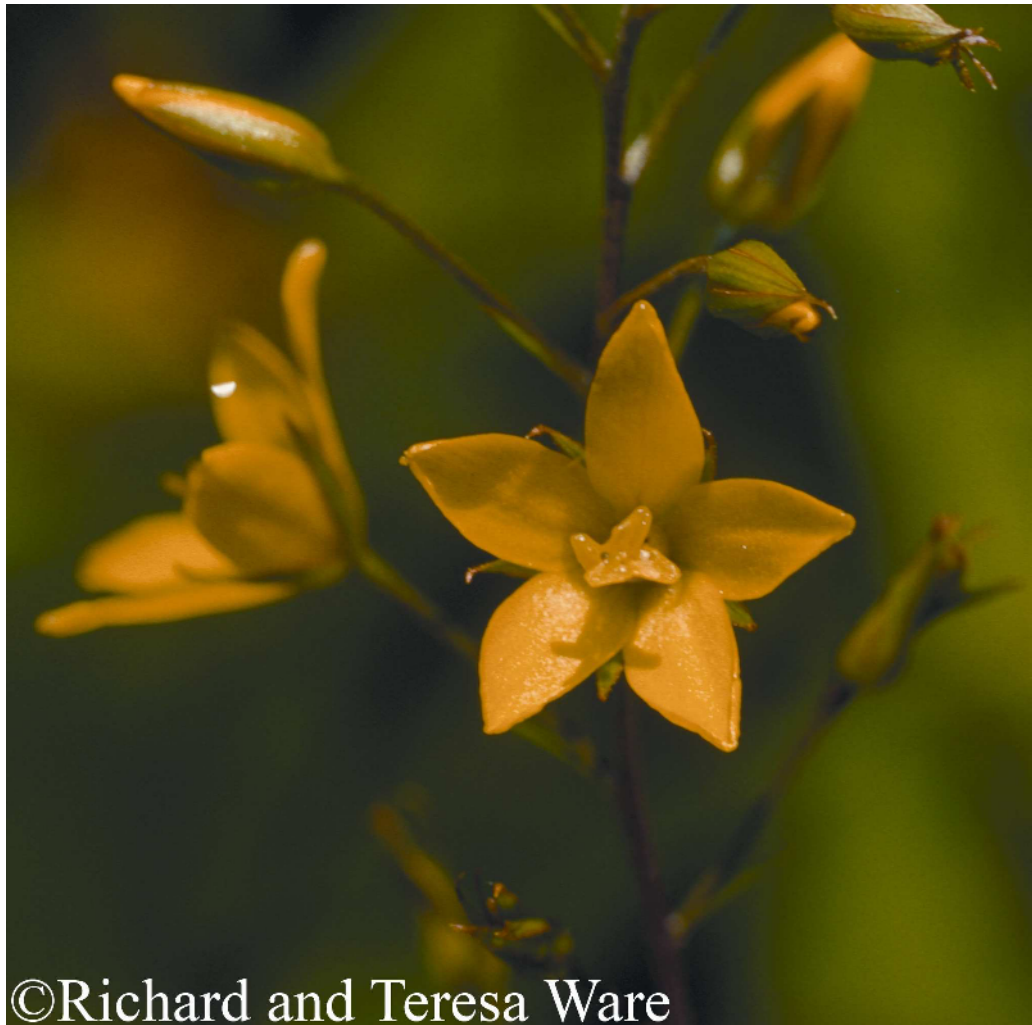
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L. Chafin, June 2008: original account
K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

WHORLED LOOSESTRIFE
Lysimachia fraseri





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