



Common Name: LONG BEACH SEEDBOX

Scientific Name: *Ludwigia brevipes* (B.H. Long ex Britton, A. Braun, and Small) Eames

Other Commonly Used Names: coastal plain water-purslane, Long Beach primrose-willow

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Ludwigiantha brevipes* B.H. Long ex Britton, A. Braun, and Small

Family: Onagraceae (sundrops)

Rarity Ranks: G2G3/SH

State Legal Status: Special Concern

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: OBL

Description: Perennial **herb** with stems up to 28 inches (70 cm) long, creeping and rooting at the nodes, sometimes forming mats. **Leaves** usually $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ inch (1 - 1.7 cm) long and about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (0.2 - 0.7 cm) wide, oval, with rounded tips and tapering bases, opposite (submerged leaves are linear and narrower). **Flowers** solitary in the angle between leaf and stem, with 4 sepals and 4 yellow petals less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (0.5 cm) long (petals are sometimes absent). **Fruit** a curved

capsule less than $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (0.6 - 1 cm) long; **fruit stalk** is $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long, shorter than the nearest leaves. All parts of the plant may have very short, hooked hairs.

Similar Species: Pond seedbox (*Ludwigia arcuata*) forms mats of creeping stems; its fruits are on stalks $\frac{5}{8}$ - $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1.5 - 3.5 cm) long and its petals are longer than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (0.7 - 1.1 cm). Creeping seedbox (*L. repens*) and common water-purslane (*L. palustris*) also form mats in wetlands; their flower stalks are absent or less than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long. Creeping seedbox petals fall quickly and are rarely seen; common water-purslane flowers have 4 green sepals and no petals.

Related Rare Species: See southern water-purslane (*Ludwigia spathulata*) on this website.

Habitat: Shallow water, pond shores, blackwater rivers, interdunal swales, marshes, shores of impoundments, ditches.

Life History: Long Beach seedbox is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually but spreads primarily by rooting at nodes on the creeping stems. Most species of *Ludwigia* are pollinated by bees and flies, but the small size, or even absence, of petals on the flowers of this species suggests that it is self-pollinating.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (July–October), but growth form, leaves, and stems are fairly distinctive throughout the growing season. Long Beach seedbox belongs to a group of five related *Ludwigia* species (*L. brevipes*, *L. palustris*, *L. repens*, and *L. arcuata*) that often grow together and naturally hybridize, which can make positive identification difficult. Long Beach seedbox and common water-purslane (*L. palustris*) also frequently hybridize, producing plants known as *Ludwigia* X *lacustris*. To further complicate identification, two other species, pond seedbox (*L. arcuata*) and creeping seedbox (*L. repens*), hybridize to produce plants that closely resemble Long Beach seedbox.

Range: Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey.

Threats: Draining, ditching, and filling of wetlands. Impoundment of streams. Coastal development.

Georgia Conservation Status: Plants have not been seen in Georgia in many years.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Protect wetlands from ditching, draining, and filling. Protect coastal habitats from development.

Selected References:

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Radford, A.E., H.E. Ahles, and C.R. Bell. 1968. *Manual of the vascular flora of the Carolinas*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

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L. Chafin, May 2007: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures



Virginia Division of Natural Heritage

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Ludwigia brevipes

