

## ATYPICAL COLOR VARIATION IN *MIMULUS RINGENS* (PHRYMACEAE)

**NATHAN D. HOWELL**

Environmental Scientist with Three Oaks Engineering  
324 Blackwell Street Suite 1140  
Durham, North Carolina 27701  
nathan.howell@threeoaksengineering.com

### ABSTRACT

Atypical corolla throat color variation in *Mimulus ringens* is documented here by photos of a single plant from Edgefield County, South Carolina. The throat has white palate ridges densely maculate with deep purple blotches, in contrast to light yellow to white palate ridges characteristic of the species.

Corollas of *Mimulus ringens* L. have been described as "violet blue, lavender, sometimes pinkish, or rarely nearly white, throat shaded with yellow and with reddish purple spots below Godfrey & Wooten 1981). The yellow to white palate ridges usually are marked with small, light brown to purplish spots that do not alter the general ridge color (e.g., Fig. 1).



Figure 1. *Mimulus ringens* with typical corolla throat coloration — palate ridges are yellow with small purplish spots. Photo by Nathan Howell.

On 10 August 2016, the author discovered a single plant of *Mimulus ringens* possessing a deep purple throat coloration — the white palate ridges densely maculate with purple blotches (Figs. 2-3). The plant was in the headwaters of Turkey Creek in northeastern Edgefield Co., South Carolina (33.870251, -81.881475). This plant was growing in a bedrock crevice (Fig. 4) along the left descending bank about 150 meters downstream of the Old Chappell Ferry Road crossing of Turkey Creek. Observations on the structure of any surrounding *Mimulus* populations were not made during the site visit. The cause of the unusual throat coloration is unknown.

Populations of *Mimulus ringens* in the southeastern USA are identified as var. *ringens* (Weakley 2015).



Figure 2. *Mimulus ringens* corolla with deep purple corolla throat coloration. Photo by Nathan Howell.





Figure 3. *Mimulus ringens* corolla with deep purple corolla throat coloration. Photo by Nathan Howell.



Figure 4. Atypical plant of *Mimulus ringens* growing in bedrock crevice. Photo by Nathan Howell.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Godfrey, R.K. and J.W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and Wetland Plants of the Southeastern United States (Dicotyledons). Univ. of Georgia Press, Athens.
- Weakley, A.S. 2015. Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States. Working draft, 21 May 2015. Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. <<http://www.herbarium.unc.edu/flora.htm>>