

## *Ranunculus lobbii* – Lobb’s Water-buttercup

**English name:** Lobb’s Water-buttercup

**Other English name:** Lobb's Water Crowfoot, Lobb’s Aquatic Buttercup

**Scientific name:** *Ranunculus lobbii* (Hiern) Gray

**Other scientific name:** N/A

**Family:** *Ranunculaceae* (Buttercup Family)

### **Risk status**

BC: historic (SH); red-listed

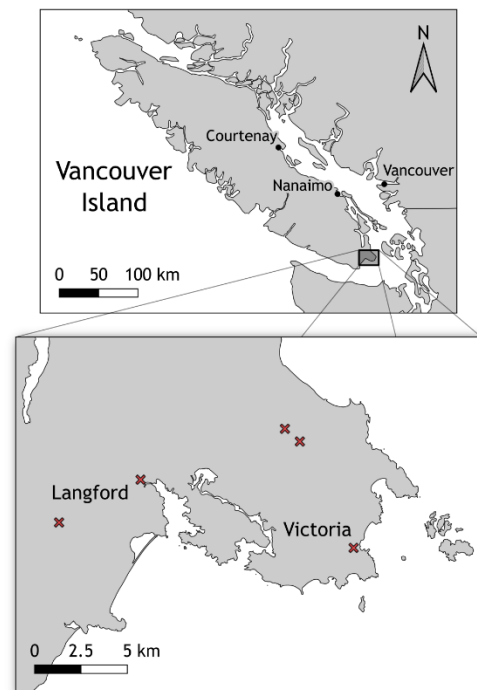
Canada: Endangered

Global: secure (G4)

Elsewhere: Oregon secure (S4), California vulnerable (S3)

**Range/Known distribution:** In Canada, Lobb’s Water-buttercup was reported from five locations in the Victoria area between 1890 and 1948 but those populations are all extirpated. In Washington, it was collected once, from a pond in a gravel pit in the San Juan Islands in 1983.

Elsewhere in the United States, Lobb’s Water-buttercup occurs in the Puget Trough and Columbia Gorge of Oregon and in the Coastal Mountains and Pacific coast of California south to the San Francisco Basin.



Distribution of *Ranunculus lobbii*  
× Extirpated Sites

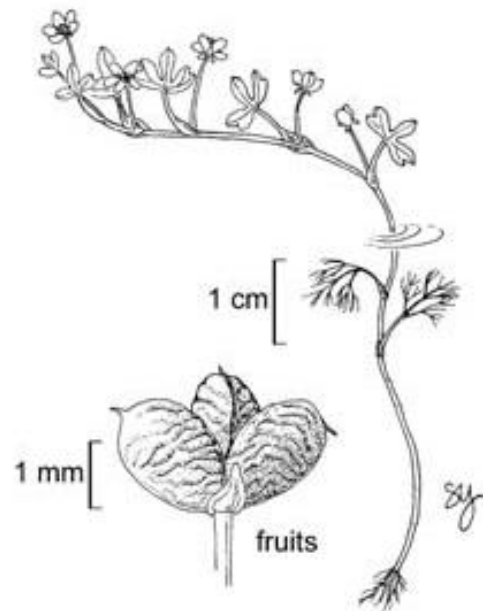
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**Field description:** Lobb’s Water-buttercup is an aquatic or semi-aquatic annual that produces an underwater stem up to a metre long, with filiform leaves on the submerged stem and broader, three-parted floating leaves. Its flowers have white petals, 4-6 mm long. The flowers may produce 4-7 beakless achenes that have corrugated sides.

**Identification tips:** Within its range in Canada, Lobb’s Water-buttercup is distinguished by its aquatic habitat, its filiform submerged leaves, and its white petals. The only other buttercup that shares these characters is Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot (*R. trichophiles*=*R. equalities*) which has more rounded floating leaves (if present), and 15 or more achenes per flower.



*Ranunculus lobbii*



**Life history:** Very little has been reported regarding the biology of Lobb’s Water-buttercup, or even its closer relatives such as White Water-buttercup. Herbarium specimens show that it flowers in April or May.

**Habitat:** Labels for Canadian herbarium specimens use rather imprecise terminology. They report that Lobb’s Water-buttercup grew in “wet black muck in pastures”, “marshy hollows”, and “in water”. In the United States it is reported from ditches, shallow ponds, and vernal pools.

**Why this species is at risk:** Some of the Canadian locations where Lobb’s Water-buttercup was collected have been developed for residential, agricultural, or commercial use. With so little known about these populations, little else can be said about how they became extirpated.

**What you can do to help this species:** Because it has become extirpated in Canada, nothing can be done to help it apart from experimental re-introductions.

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### References

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- Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria Specimen Database (CPNWH). [2007-2024]. Website <https://www.pnwherbaria.org>. Accessed March 19, 2024.
- Whittemore, A.T. *Ranunculus* In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. Flora of North America North of Mexico [Online]. 25+ vols. New York and Oxford. Vol. 3. <http://beta.floranorthamerica.org/Fumaria>. Accessed March 19, 2024.

For further information, contact the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, or see the web site at: [www.goert.ca](http://www.goert.ca)

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\*Refers to non-native species

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