

Limnanthaceae

meadow-foam family

All small annual herbaceous plants, there are only 11 species worldwide. Leaves are alternate and compound. Flowers are solitary, on long pedicels arising from the upper leaf axils. The small flowers are regular and perfect. The sepals are adjacent to the petals, not beneath. Stamens equal the number of petals or double them in number, and are arranged opposite them. Carpels number 2–5, with a single style. Ovary is deeply lobed and bearing a single ovule in each locule.

***Floerkea* Willd.**

false mermaidweed

A monotypic genus, it is limited in range to North America. Flowers are white, three-merous and autogamous. The sepals exceed the petals in length.

***Floerkea proserpinacoides* Willd.**

False Mermaid; floerkée fausse-proserpinie



Photos by Martin Thomas

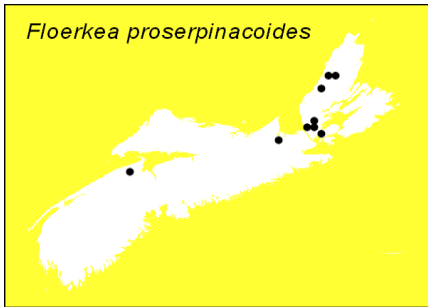
This herb is a delicate tenuous plant, its stems barely erect or ascending. Leaves are cleft into 3–5 narrowly oblanceolate leaflets. The solitary flowers arise on slender pedicels from the leaf axils, equal in length to the leaves and petioles.



Flowers in spring, until late June.

Limited to ravine slopes beneath deciduous forests, riparian forests.

Known from several Cape Breton localities, such as Glenora Falls. Reported from Coldbrook and Sheffield Mills, Kings



Co., Truro and Antigonish Co.

Ranges from NS; QC to ON, south to TN; LA in the east; BC, south to CA, east to ND and CO.