

Melastomataceae

melastome family

Four hundred species are included in this family of primarily South American plants. A single species reaches Nova Scotia.

Rhexia L.

Meadow-beauty

Terminal cymes of showy flowers range in colour from white to pink and magenta. They are four-merous. Hypanthia are tubular at anthesis, becoming urceolate in fruit. The sepals are persistent. Anthers have a short fragile connective spur at their bases. Fruits are capsules. Leaves are sessile and cauline, mostly with three veins. They are also glandular. Twelve species are known, all eastern in North America.

Rhexia virginica L.

Meadow Beauty; rhéxie de Virginie



Photo by David Mazerolle

Simple and unbranching, the opposite leaves clasp the stem, which is puberulent. Leaves are strongly ribbed, bristly serrate and hirsute. Two very small leafy bracts subtend the peduncle. Flowers are magenta, bearing large yellow stamens surrounding a single pistil.

Flowers July and August.

Open lakeshores in peat or sand. A striking part of the coastal plain floral assemblage on lakeshores and in wet meadows on sand or peat.

Locally abundant in southwestern counties, to Annapolis and Lunenburg counties.



Photo by Sean Blaney

Disjunct populations in NS, ON and New England; south to GA and AL.



Photo by Martin Thomas

