

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family) Key

Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador

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- 1a. Plants aquatic or amphibious, with submergent leaves, very dissected (capillary) or deeply palmately-lobed; sepals 4–5, flowers with white or yellow petals. **2**
- 1b. Plants terrestrial or amphibious; terrestrial plants with simple or compound leaves, or amphibious and wetland plants with simple unlobed or lobed leaves; sepals present or absent; flowers with a white, yellow, or purple perianth. **4**
- 2a. Plants amphibious, leaves submergent or emergent, long-petiolate; submersed leaves flaccid (not retaining their shape when removed from water), 1–9 cm broad, palmately divided into 3 flat segments with several linear subdivisions; emergent leaves larger and firmer, with broader, palmately 3–5-lobed blades; petals 4–14 (usually 5), yellow; achenes glabrous. **Ranunculus gmelinii** (Gmelin's water crowfoot)
- 2b. Plants aquatic, leaves all submergent; leaf blades all very dissected (leaves capillary), dichotomously-branched 3–5 times into 60–150 filiform segments; petals 5, white with yellow claws; achenes usually pubescent. **3**
- 3a. Capillary leaves flaccid, 2.5–7 cm long, fan-shaped (flabellate) to circular (orbicular), with up to 150 ultimate segments; upper stems, leaves, and stipules glabrous or finely hairy; petals usually less than 5 mm long, margins not usually overlapping during flowering (anthesis); beak of achene absent or minute (less than 0.1 mm long).
..... **Ranunculus trichophyllus** (threadleaf water-crowfoot)
- 3b. Capillary leaves firm to somewhat rigid, 1–2.5 cm long, broadly fan-shaped (flabellate) to nearly circular, with 60–80 ultimate segments; upper stems, leaves, and stipules finely hairy; petals 7–10 mm long, margins overlapping during flowering (anthesis); beak of achene 0.2–0.5 mm long.
..... **Ranunculus subrigidus** (stiff water-crowfoot)
- 4a. Leaves bipinnately compound, or ternately compound with 3 bipinnate–tripinnate segments; leaflets lanceolate to ovate with serrate margins, or leaflets oblong, obovate, or flabellate, unlobed or lobed, margins entire. **5**
- 4b. Leaves simple, unlobed or lobed, palmately divided, trifoliolate, or palmately compound; leaf or leaflet margins entire, crenate, dentate, serrate, lobed, or deeply incised. **8**
- 5a. Plants with large compound leaves (ternately compound), with each of the 3 divisions bipinnately compound; leaflets lanceolate to ovate, 3–9 cm long; margins coarsely serrate; flowers several, in an erect, terminal raceme; pedicels are slender, green to purplish-brown, and 6–15 mm long; sepals 4–5, petaloid and dropping soon after the flowers open (caducous); petals 4–10, white, spatulate, 2.5–4 mm long; pistil 1, fruits are fleshy, ovoid, red or white berries, 0.5–1.1 cm long. ...
..... **Actaea rubra** subsp. **rubra** (red baneberry)
- 5b. Plants with small or large bipinnately compound leaves; leaflets oblong, obovate, or flabellate, unlobed or 2–7 lobed, margins entire; flowers nodding or erect, several to many; sepals 4–5, purple or white; petals 5 and purple, or petals lacking; pistils 1–several; fruit a cluster of follicles or achenes. **6**

- 6a. Plants 3–7 dm tall, basal leaves 10–30 cm long, leaflets entire or 2–7-lobed; flowers nodding; sepals 5, purple; petals 5, purple, tapering upward into a tubular spur, 1.4–2.2 cm long, curved inward at the tip; stamens numerous; pistils 5; fruit a cluster of oblong follicles, each 1.5–2.5 cm long and terminating in a slender beak. ***Aquilegia vulgaris*** (European columbine) 7
- 6b. Plants 0.5–30 dm tall, basal leaves pinnately or bipinnately compound, 2–50+ cm long; leaflets entire or 3–5-lobed; flowers nodding or erect; sepals 4–5, inconspicuous, white to purplish; petals lacking; stamens 8–15; pistils 2 to several; fruit a cluster of longitudinally ridged achenes. 7
- 7a. Plants 0.5–2 dm tall; basal leaves bipinnately compound, leaflets fan-shaped (flabellate), to 1 cm long, 3–5-lobed, apices rounded; cauline leaves absent; flowers bisexual, few in a raceme; achenes 2–6, ovoid, 2–3.5 mm long, beakless. ***Thalictrum alpinum*** (alpine meadowrue)
- 7b. Plants 5–30 dm tall; basal and cauline leaves bipinnately or ternately compound; leaflets oblong to obovate, 1–7 cm long, unlobed or 2–3-lobed (seldom 4-lobed); cauline leaves present, sessile; flowers mostly unisexual, numerous in a panicle; achenes several, ellipsoid, 3–5 mm long, with a short, straight to curved beak, < 1–2.5 mm long. ***Thalictrum pubescens*** (tall meadowrue)
- 8a. Plants 1–8 dm tall, with basal and cauline leaves all simple, broad, and unlobed, about 2–12 cm long by 1–19 cm wide; leaf blades are ovate, cordate, reniform, or nearly orbicular; leaf bases are cordate or divergent; margins are entire to dentate; flowers have a yellow perianth of 3–12 petaloid sepals or petals, and 10 to many stamens. 9
- 8b. Plants small or large, with compound or simple leaves; simple leaves may be unlobed (with small and narrow blades, less than 1 to 4.5 cm long and less than 1 to 2 cm wide), or shallowly-lobed to very deeply-lobed; leaf bases are tapering (cuneate), rounded, cordate, divergent, or sagittate; margins are entire, crenate, serrate, or incised; flowers have perianth parts in a variety of colours, most often white or yellow, and 4 to many stamens; fruit a cluster of achenes (achenetum).. 10
- 9a. Plants with basal leaves and erect flowering stems 1–8 dm tall; leaves are simple and unlobed, 5–12.5 cm long by 1–19 cm wide; leaf blades are ovate, cordate, or reniform; bases are divergent to deeply cordate, apices are rounded, and margins are entire to dentate; flowers have 5–12 yellow sepals, 1–2.5 cm long, 0 petals, 10–40 stamens, and a star-like aggregate cluster of 5–15 follicles (follicetum); occurring mainly in wNfld., the Avalon and Burin Peninsulas, and seLabrador. ***Caltha palustris*** (marsh marigold)
- 9a. Plants with basal leaves and erect flowering stems 1–3 dm tall; leaves are simple and unlobed, 1.8–3.7 cm long by 2–4 cm wide; leaf blades are ovate, cordate, or deltate, bases are divergent, cordate, or sagittate; apices are blunt (obtuse) or rounded, margins are entire or broadly crenate; flowers have 3 ovate sepals, 4–9 mm long; petals usually 8–9 (occas. to 12), yellow, 1–1.5 cm long, and oblanceolate to obovate; stamens many; achenes are beakless and somewhat hairy at the tip; introduced in eNfld. ***Ficaria verna*** (lesser celandine)

- 10a. Small amphibious or wetland plants of shallow water, wet mud flats, shorelines, and pools in bogs or tundra; leaf simple, blades ascending or lying flat on a wet substrate, unlobed or 2–5-lobed, with tapering to cordate leaf bases; fruit a small cluster of achenes (achenetum). **11**
- 10b. Short to tall plants of wetland or terrestrial habitats; leaves simple, blades spreading to ascending (not lying flat on a wet substrate), undivided with divergent to cordate leaf bases, or palmately lobed; or leaves compound, with 3 or more leaflets; fruit a cluster of achenes (achenetum) or follicles (follicetum). **17**
- 11a. Stems usually creeping, some with erect flowering stems; leaves simple, basal or cauline; leaf blades ascending, with narrow, tapering (attenuate or cuneate) leaf bases; blades are oblong, lanceolate, or oblanceolate unlobed or 2–3-lobed, and usually less than 2 cm wide (occasional plants of *Ranunculus flammula* var. *flammula* may have erect flowering shoots and basal leaves with long petioles and wider floating ovate blades); sepals 3–5, green, yellow, or purple; petals 5–11, yellow, white, or pinkish. **12**
- 11b. Stems creeping, to 5 dm long; leaves simple and mainly cauline; leaf blades lying ± flat along the water or mud surface, leaf blades shallowly 3–5-lobed with cordate leaf bases; plants of wetland habitats in insular Newfoundland and/or Labrador. **15**
- 12a. Leaf blades are undivided and narrowly elliptic, oblong, or oblanceolate, 1.5–3.6 cm long by up to 2 cm wide, or 2–3-lobed, with narrow lanceolate lobes in the upper half of the blade, margins are entire; flowers have 3 purple sepals, 6–10 mm long, and 7–11 white to pinkish petals, 8–13 mm long; plants of nLabrador. ***Coptidium pallasii*** (Pallas' buttercup)
- 12b. Leaf blades are linear to ovate and undivided, < 1–4.5 cm long by up to 1 cm wide, margins entire or finely serrate; flowers have 4–5 yellow or green sepals, 1–4 mm long, and 5–6 yellow petals, 2.5–7 mm long; plants not restricted to nLabrador. **13**
- 13a. Leaf blades are linear to filiform, < 1–3 cm long by up to 1 mm wide; sepals are 1–2 mm long, petals are 2.5–5 mm long; plants of Nfld. and extending north to Saglek, northern-most-Labrador. ***Ranunculus flammula* var. *reptans*** (creeping spearwort)
- 13b. Leaf blades are linear to ovate, < 1–4.5 cm long by up to 1 cm wide, sepals are 2–4 mm long, petals are 3–7 mm long; plants of insular Nfld. **14**
- 14a. Leaf blades are ovate, lanceolate, or oblanceolate, 1.8–4.5 cm long by up to 1 cm wide, margins are entire or finely serrate; sepals are 3–4 mm long; petals are usually 5–7 mm long. ***Ranunculus flammula* var. *flammula*** (lesser spearwort)
- 14b. Leaf blades linear, narrowly elliptic, or oblanceolate, < 1–3.3 cm long by 2–8 mm wide, margins are entire; sepals are 2–3 mm long; petals are 3–5 mm long. ***Ranunculus flammula* var. *ovalis*** (ovalleaf lesser spearwort)

- 15a. Stems to 5 dm long, cauline leaves are usually opposite; leaf blades are reniform or cordate and 3–7-lobed, with blunt to rounded lobes; bases are divergent to cordate; flowers have 5 elliptic petals, white with yellow claws, 2–4 mm long, and 4–12 stamens; introduced in stream margins, St. John’s, eNfld. ***Ranunculus hederaceus*** (ivyleaf crowfoot)
- 15b. Stems 1–4 dm long, flowering stems erect, to 3 dm tall; cauline leaves alternate; leaf blades are ovate to flabellate, and 3–7-lobed; flowers have 3–5 sepals, 3–5 yellow petals, and 8–30 stamens; plants of fresh water and brackish habitats in Nfld. and Lab. **16**
- 16a. Leaves 0.6–3.8 cm long, blades ovate to flabellate, shallowly 3–7-lobed (usually 3-lobed in our area); bases are truncate to slightly cordate; flowers have 5 sepals, 2.5–6 mm long, 5 petals, 2–7 mm long, and 20–30 stamens; fruiting heads are ovoid to cylindrical, 6–12 mm long. Plants from throughout Newfoundland, north to central Labrador.
..... ***Halerpestes cymbalaria*** (seaside buttercup)
- 16b. Leaves 0.3–1.2 cm long, blades ovate to flabellate, deeply 3-lobed, with oblanceolate to obovate lobes; bases are widely divergent to truncate; flowers have 3–4 sepals, 2–4 mm long, 3–5 petals, 2–5 mm long, and 8–12 stamens; fruiting heads are spherical, 3–5 mm long. Plants mainly of Labrador, extending south to nwNfld.
..... ***Ranunculus hyperboreus*** (far-northern buttercup)
- 17a. Small arctic-alpine buttercups (*Ranunculus*) with erect stems to 2 dm tall; leaves mostly basal, cauline leaves absent or 1–3; leaf blades simple, ovate to reniform or palmately divided into 3–5 lobes; sepals 5, green or yellowish; petals 5, yellow or white; fruit a cluster of achenes (achenetum); plants of northern and northwestern Labrador, often near snowbeds. **18**
- 17b. Plants of wetland or terrestrial habitats; stems erect, more than 2 dm tall, or creeping; leaves basal and often also cauline, leaf blades simple and deeply divided or palmately compound; sepals 3–9, often petaloid, of various colours, petals absent or 2–8; fruit a cluster of achenes (achenetum) or a cluster of follicles (follicetum). **21**
- 18a. Dwarf plants to 3.5 cm tall; all leaves are palmately 3–5-lobed with rounded lobes; leaf blades are up to 1 cm long by up to 1.3 cm wide; sepals are 2–4 mm long, the lower surface is pubescent with colourless hairs; petals are 1.5–3 mm long.
..... ***Ranunculus pygmaeus*** (pygmy buttercup)
- 18b. Plants 5–20 cm tall; leaves ovate to reniform and unlobed, or palmately 3–5-lobed; leaf blades are 0.1–3 cm long and wide; sepals are 4–11 mm long, the lower surface is pubescent with colourless or rusty-brown hairs; petals are 4–12 mm long. **19**
- 19a. Basal leaves are reniform with crenate margins or deeply palmately 3–5-lobed, the oblanceolate lobes are often further 2–3-lobed near the apex; sepals are 4–6 mm long by 2–3 mm wide, the lower surface is pubescent with colourless hairs; petals are 4–5 mm long.
..... ***Ranunculus allenii*** (Allen’s buttercup)
- 19b. Basal leaves are palmately 3–5-lobed, the lobe margins are entire or crenate; sepals are 6–11 mm long by 3–6 mm wide, the lower surface is densely pubescent with rusty-brown hairs; petals are 8–12 mm long. **20**

- 20a. Basal leaves are 0.5–2 cm long and palmately 3–5-lobed; petioles are 1–4.5 cm long; fruiting heads are 7–14 mm long; plants usually on acidic substrates. *Ranunculus nivalis* (snow buttercup)
- 20b. Basal leaves are 1–3 cm long and ovate with crenate margins, or palmately 3–5-lobed; petioles are 1–9 cm long; fruiting heads are 6–12 mm long; plants usually on calcareous substrates. *Ranunculus sulphureus* (sulphur buttercup)
- 21a. Plants to 15 dm tall; basal and cauline leaf blades are 5–10 cm broad, deeply palmately divided into 3–7 lobes, further divided 1–2 times into narrow linear-lanceolate segments; flowers several, in racemes to 28 cm tall, with irregular (bilateral) symmetry, and 5 purple or blue-violet petaloid sepals, including a hood-shaped upper sepal, 2 lateral sepals, and 2 lower sepals. The 2 narrow, erect petals are highly- modified, each ending in an S-shaped (sigmoid) nectary; petals are attached behind the numerous stamens and enclosed within the hooded sepals. The fruit is a small clusters of 2–3 ellipsoid follicles. *Aconitum napellus* (garden monkshood)
- 21b. Plants to 13 dm tall; leaf blades are palmately divided or compound; flowers are solitary or in few-flowered clusters; flowers have regular symmetry, 4–8 sepals (green or petaloid), 4–8 petals, and 10–many stamens; the fruits are clusters of achenes or follicles. **22**
- 22a. Plants short, less than 1 dm tall, glabrous throughout; basal leaves arising from a slender rhizome, with 3 leaflets (trifoliolate) or blades deeply divided into 3 obovate or flabellate segments and appearing trifoliolate; cauline leaves or leaf-like (foliaceous) involucral bracts absent; the flowering stalk (scape) is 3–17 cm tall and naked; showy perianth parts are 4–8 (usually 6–7), and white or yellow. **23**
- 22b. Plants tall or short, less than 1 to 13 dm tall, glabrous or pubescent; rhizomes present or lacking; basal leaves deeply divided into 3–9 segments; flowering stalks bear either cauline leaves or whorls of 2–3 involucral bracts; showy perianth parts 4–9, of various colours, most often white or yellow. **24**
- 23a. Basal leaves with 3 leaflets (trifoliolate), arising from slender (filiform), golden-yellow rhizomes; leaflets are obovate, very shiny (lustrous) on the upper surface; each leaflet has 3–5 lobes with broad cuspidate serrations on the margins; flowers have 4–8 petaloid sepals, 4–11 mm long, white or cream-coloured and tinged with purple on the lower surface; the 4–7 inconspicuous yellow-orange petals are modified into narrow club-shaped (clavate) nectaries, shorter than the 30–60 stamens; the fruit is an aggregate of 3–9 ellipsoid follicles, 4–7 mm long, with a beak 2–4 mm long. *Coptis trifolia* (goldthread)
- 23b. Basal leaf usually solitary, deeply 3-parted, appearing trifoliolate at first glance, filiform rhizomes are present, but not yellow; leaf blades are 1–3 cm long by 1.5–4.5 cm wide and somewhat shiny; each obovate to flabellate segment has 3–12 low crenate lobes at the apex; flowers have 3 ovate green sepals, 4–7 mm long, 5–8 yellow elliptic to oblanceolate petals, 5–6 mm long, and 10–12 stamens; the fruit is an aggregate of 6–20 small achenes, about 4 mm long, terminating in a long curved beak, 4–5 mm long and hooked at the tip. *Coptidium lapponicum* (Lapland buttercup)

- 24a. Flowering stems bear 1–2 whorls of 2–3 leaf-like (foliaceous) involucre bracts a few centimetres below the flowers, involucre bracts are smaller, but similar in shape to the basal leaves; flowers have 4–9 (usually 5–6) petaloid sepals, white, yellow, or variously coloured; petals are absent. 25
- 24b. Flowering stems bear alternate cauline leaves; lower cauline leaves are petiolate and similar to, but smaller than, the basal leaves, upper cauline leaves usually sessile and deeply lobed; flowers have 3–5 green sepals and 3–5 yellow petals (*Ranunculus*, in part). 29
- 25a. Basal leaves are palmately-divided into 3–7 lobes; flower have yellow or white petaloid sepals; achenes are smooth (glabrous), flat, in spherical or broad clusters, about 1–4 cm wide (*Anemonastrum*). 26
- 25b. Basal leaves are deeply palmately-divided into 3–5 segments; flowers have white or variously coloured petaloid sepals; achenes are densely covered in white woolly hairs and occur in spherical, ovoid, or cylindrical woolly clusters, 0.7–1.1 cm wide (*Anemone*). 27
- 26a. Plants short, 0.5–1 dm tall; basal leaf 1, reniform to nearly orbicular, 1.5–3 cm long, and deeply 3–5-lobed; involucre bracts 2, opposite, sessile, similar in shape to the basal leaf blades, in a single whorl situated near the middle of the stem; flowers are solitary, with 6–8 yellow petaloid sepals; the fruit is a broad cluster of achenes, 3–4 mm long, not winged, with a long recurved beak 4–6 mm long, minutely hooked at the tip; plants of snowbeds, alpine meadows, and thickets; native to far-northern Labrador.
Anemonastrum richardsonii (Richardson's anemone)
- 26b. Plants taller, 2–8 dm tall; basal leaves 1–5, orbicular in general outline, 4–10 cm long by 5–15 cm wide, deeply divided into 5–7 oblanceolate lobes, each sharply toothed or incised near the apex; involucre bracts deeply 3-lobed, sessile, similar in shape to the basal leaf blades, occurring in 2 whorls situated near the middle of the stem, the lower whorl with 3 bracts, the upper whorl with 2 bracts; flowers solitary or 2–3, usually with 5 white petaloid sepals; the fruit is a cluster of broadly-winged achenes, 3–6 mm long, with a straight, narrow beak 2–6 mm long; plants of streambanks, pond margins, wet fens, wet meadows, and thickets; native to western Nfld. *Anemonastrum canadense* (Canada anemone)
- 27a. Plants short, 0.5–3.5 dm tall; leaf blades are 1.4–1.8 cm long and deeply divided into 3 dark green, glossy, obovate segments; lateral leaflets sometimes deeply divided to below the middle; margins are crenate at the apex; the 2–3 involucre bracts are sessile, similar in shape to the basal leaves, and situated in a single whorl below or near the middle of the stem; flowers are solitary, with 4–7 white petaloid sepals, tinged with blue on the lower surface; fruiting heads are spherical, with slender dark red beaks that extend beyond the woolly base of the achenes; plants of limestone barrens, snowbeds, alpine meadows, and thickets, preferring calcareous soil; native to sw/w/nw/c Nfld. and nw/nLabrador. *Anemone parviflora* (northern anemone)
- 27b. Plants larger, 3–13 cm tall; basal leaves are deeply palmately divided into 3–5 segments that are further divided or incised; involucre bracts are borne on short petioles, in 1–2 whorls; flowers solitary or 2–9, usually with 5 petaloid sepals; fruiting heads are usually ovoid to cylindrical; plants of basic or calcareous substrates in Nfld. 28

- 28a. Plants 3–7 dm tall, very hairy; basal leaves have 3–5 segments, twice divided into several narrow lobes with entire margins; 3–5 involucral bracts occur in 2 whorls. Flowers have creamy-white to pink petaloid sepals; fruiting heads are spherical to ovoid, 0.8–1.8 cm long by 0.8–1.1 cm wide; achenes have short, slender beaks; plants of rocky slopes, cliffs, and scree slopes; native to w/nw/ne/cNfld. ***Anemone multifida*** (cutleaf anemone)
- 28b. Plants 3–13 dm tall, sparsely hairy; basal leaves have 3–5 segments sharply incised towards the apex into 2–3 lobes, with coarsely serrate margins; the cuneate base has concave to straight sides and entire margins; 2–3 involucral bracts occur in each of 1–2 whorls; flowers have white petaloid sepals; fruiting heads are ovoid to cylindrical, 1.5–2 cm long by 0.7–1.1 cm wide; achenes are woolly at the base, with prominent glabrous beaks 1–1.5 mm long; plants of streambanks and adjacent rocky cliffs or ledges; native to western Nfld.
..... ***Anemone virginiana*** var. ***alba*** (riverbank anemone)
- 29a. Basal leaves simple and unlobed, with crenate margins, or basal leaves 3–9-lobed; cauline leaves sessile, deeply 3–5-lobed, with oblanceolate to linear segments. **30**
- 29b. Basal and lower- to mid-stem cauline leaves ternately compound, with 3 leaflets, the terminal or all leaflets stalked; erect shoots may sometime have 3–5-lobed lower basal leaves. **34**
- 30a. Sepals 4–9 mm long, shorter than the petals, which are 5–17 mm long. **31**
- 30b. Sepals 2.5–6 mm long, longer than the petals, which are 1.5–5 mm long. **32**
- 31a. Plants to 10 dm tall; basal leaves pentagonal to orbicular in outline, deeply palmately divided into 5 segments, each further divided 1–2 times; lower cauline leaves similar to basal leaves, but with narrower lobes; upper cauline leaves deeply divided into 3 linear lobes; petals 5 (to many in some garden cultivars); stamens numerous; fruiting heads globose, 5–7 mm in diameter; introduced in seLabrador and throughout Nfld. ***Ranunculus acris*** (tall buttercup)
- 31b. Plants to 4.5 dm tall; basal leaves palmately divided into 3–9 oblong to obovate lobes; cauline leaves deeply divided into narrow lanceolate or linear lobes; petals 5; stamens 15–25; fruiting heads obovate or cylindrical, 7–15 mm long by 5–8 mm wide; native to n/nwLabrador and the Northern Peninsula, Nfld. ***Ranunculus arcticus*** (northern buttercup)
- 32a. Plants with a bulbous, corm-like base; basal and most cauline leaves palmately 3–5-lobed, with obovate segments, 2–3 lobed towards the apex, or margins with coarse blunt teeth; achenes with curved, prominently hooked beaks, 1–1.4 mm long; native plants of rich, forested habitats in swNfld. ***Ranunculus recurvatus*** (hooked crowfoot)
- 32b. Plants lacking a bulbous base; basal leaves ovate, reniform, or nearly orbicular or 3–5-lobed with crenate margins, cauline leaves with shallowly lobed or entire margins; achenes with minute, straight to slightly curved beaks, less than 0.2 mm long. **33**
- 33a. Basal leaves with reniform to orbicular blades, margins crenate; cauline leaves sessile, deeply divided into 1–3 oblanceolate to linear lobes; petals narrowly triangular, 1.5–3.5 mm long by 1–2 mm wide; fruiting heads ovoid, 3–6 mm long; plants of forest and meadow or field habitats; native to Nfld. (but absent from the Avalon and Burin), N through c/wLabrador.
..... ***Ranunculus abortivus*** (kidneyleaf crowfoot)

- 33b. Basal leaves broadly ovate, with 3–5 shallowly-lobed blades, margins crenate; cauline leaves short-petiolate, deeply 3-lobed, each segment with 3–several shallow lobes; petals obovate, 2–5 mm long by 1–3 mm wide; fruiting heads cylindrical, 5–13 mm long; plants of coastal areas, preferring nitrogen-rich substrates, such as near bird rocks, kelp beds, and ditches; native to e/neNfld. ***Ranunculus sceleratus*** (celeryleaf crowfoot)
- 34a. Stems erect, not rooting at the nodes; stems and petioles with stiff, spreading hairs; flowers with sepals longer than the petals; sepals 2.5–5.5 mm long, petals 2–5 mm long; fruiting heads cylindrical, 6–18 mm long, twice as long as wide; native plants of marshes and wetland habitats from c/w/ne/nwNfld., north to central Labrador.
..... ***Ranunculus pensylvanicus*** (Pennsylvania crowfoot)
- 34b. Stems erect to decumbent, prostrate, or creeping, sometimes rooting at the nodes, stems and petioles with stiff or silky, spreading, ascending, or appressed hairs; flowers with sepals equal to or shorter than the petals; sepals 3–10 mm long, petals 3.5–18 mm long; fruiting heads globose or ovoid; native or introduced plants of various habitats. **35**
- 35a. Stems nearly erect to decumbent; sepals and petals about equal in length; sepals 3–6 mm long, petals 3.5–6 mm long; native plants of marshes and wetland habitats of ne/w/nw Nfld.
..... ***Ranunculus macounii*** (Macoun’s buttercup)
- 35b. Stems erect, prostrate or creeping; sepals 4–10 mm long, shorter than the petals, which are 6–18 mm long. **36**
- 36a. Stems are densely hairy with stiff, downward-pointing (retorse) hairs; leaf blades are 2–13.4 cm long by 2.4–16.8 cm wide; achenes with a ± straight, lanceolate beak 0.8–2.6 mm long; plants native in wetlands habitats of swNfld.
..... ***Ranunculus hispidus* var. *caricetorum*** (northern swamp buttercup)
- 36b. Stems are nearly smooth (glabrous) to hairy, with spreading, ascending, or appressed hairs; leaf blades are 1–8.5 cm long by 1.5–10 cm wide; achenes with beaks 0.2–1.2 mm long; plants introduced, usually in moist to wet, disturbed areas. **37**
- 37a. Plants decumbent or creeping, rooting at the nodes; lacking a bulbous base; stems and petioles with stiff, spreading to appressed hairs, sometimes glabrous; basal and lower cauline leaves to 8.5 cm long and 10 cm wide; upper blade surface often marked with pale or whitish blotches between the lobes; sepals spreading to somewhat reflexed; achenes with a slightly curved beak, 0.7–1.2 mm long; throughout Nfld. and in e/nw/seLabrador. ***Ranunculus repens*** (creeping buttercup)
- 37b. Plants erect, not rooting at the nodes; with a bulbous, corm-like base; stems and petioles with long, silky, ascending hairs; basal and lower cauline leaves to about 5.4 cm long and wide; upper blade surface not mottled; sepals strongly reflexed; achenes with a short beak, 0.2–0.8 mm long; known only from the Avalon Peninsula and wNfld. ***Ranunculus bulbosus*** (bulbous buttercup)