



CREeping WATER-PRIMROSE (*Ludwigia peploides*)

often labelled as *Ludwigia grandiflora* or *Jussiaea grandiflora*, water primrose and primrose-willow is native to South America. It can grow at the water margins or as a floating aquatic. The floating form is quite distinctive but where it grows at the margins more care is needed in identification. The leaf shape varies from long and slender (on emergent stems) to egg-shaped (on floating stems). The dark green leaves are arranged alternately on the stem and have lighter green central vein (midrib) with branching veins. The stems are fleshy and grow from 20 cm to 300 cm. It is easiest to identify when in flower (July to August). The flowers are bright yellow and are approximately 3 cm across with five petals. Vegetation dies back in winter leaving distinctive brown stems.



Emergent stem with long slender leaves
Photo: GBNNSS



Floating stem with oval leaves
Photo: GBNNSS



Myosotis scorpioides.
Photo: Chris Gibson, Natural England



Lythrum portula.
Photo: ukwildflowers.com



Amphibious bistort.
Photo: Chris Gibson, Natural England



Veronica beccabunga.
Photo: Dr Nigel Holmes

DO NOT CONFUSE WITH

- The leaves of water forget-me-not (*Myosotis* species) may look superficially similar but they have a distinct midrib with less apparent branching veins and blue flowers.
- When the floating leaves of amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*) first come out they can resemble water primrose but they are significantly larger when fully grown and have very different flowers.
- Water-purslane (*Lythrum portula*) has similar floating oval leaves but are opposite with pinkish midrib.
- Speedwell (*Veronica* species) leaves are opposite and can have a widely spaced toothed edge.