

**Survey of Michigan Monkey-Flower (*Mimulus michiganensis*)
Populations at the North Branch of the Platte River, Hooker Rd.
Crossing, Benzie County, Michigan**



Prepared by:

Liana N. May and Phyllis J. Higman

Michigan Natural Features Inventory
PO Box 13036
Lansing, MI 48901-3036

For:

Conservation Resource Alliance
10850 Traverse Highway, Suite 1180
Traverse City MI 49684



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Cover photograph:

Michigan monkey-flower (*Mimulus michiganensis*) at the North Branch of the Platte River, Skinner Road, Benzie County, Michigan. May 17, 2018, by Liana May.

Introduction

In 2018, Conservation Resource Alliance requested Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) to conduct surveys for the federally endangered Michigan monkey-flower (*Mimulus michiganensis*) along the North Branch of the Platte River, Benzie County (T27N R14W Sec21), in proximity to the Hooker, Dymond and Skinner Road crossings. An occurrence of Michigan monkey-flower, first documented in 1965, with follow-up observations as recent as 2012, is known from the region. Surveys were conducted to assess the status and extent of this occurrence and to survey suitable habitat nearby, to determine if activities associated with culvert replacement at the road crossings are likely to negatively impact the monkey-flower. This report provides survey results for the Hooker Road crossing only; findings for the Dymond and Skinner Rd crossings will be provided after surveys are conducted during peak flowering.

Methods

Prior to the field surveys, MNFI conducted a standard search of the Natural Heritage Database, Biotics, for Michigan monkey-flower occurrences within a half-mile of the Hooker Rd. site.

On May 18th, 2018 a thorough meander survey was conducted one half-mile upstream and one half-mile downstream of the project site: Hooker Road crossing (44.70948, -86.02429). The meander search covered the river banks and bed as well as the small streams, springs, and seeps feeding the river.

Findings

No occurrences of Michigan monkey-flower were previously documented in Biotics within a half-mile upstream or downstream of the Hooker Rd. site and no Michigan monkey-flower was documented along this stretch of the North Branch of the Platte River during this survey. The closest known population of the Michigan monkey-flower is located approximately 1.5 miles upstream of Hooker Road and 300 feet east of the Skinner Road crossing (MNFI 2018).

Acknowledgements

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Literature Cited

Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI). 2018. Natural heritage database. Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Lansing, MI.