Epilobium parviflorum Schreb., a perennial herb native
to Europe and Western Asia, has been found growing wild
in several counties in Ontario, Canada. Plants were first
collected near Toronto in August, 1973, by the author.
Seven other localities have since been discovered among
misidentified specimens in several Ontario herbaria.

This species at a glance resembles a short Epilobium
hirsutum L., but the flowers and leaves are much smaller. 
Epilobium parviflorum has the common name of "Small-
flowered Hairy Willow-herb," with petals averaging only
six mm. in length, while petals of E. hirsutum are over
ten mm. long. The leaves, ranging in length from two to
eight cm., vary from subsessile to sessile, but never clasp
the stem, as do those of E. hirsutum. Both the stem and
leaves have the characteristic spreading-villous pubescence
of E. hirsutum, although the density of hairs is quite vari-
able and tends to decrease from the base upward into a
glandular puberulent inflorescence. In autumn, the plant
produces short, leafy rosettes for overwintering.

Several specimens have been misidentified as E. strictum
Muhl., which also has villous pubescence on the leaves and
stems. However, E. parviflorum can be easily distinguished
from this species by its four-lobed rather than clavate
stigma, and by its oblong-lanceolate rather than linear
leaves.

The discovery of this species in Ontario is noteworthy
when one realizes that it has previously been reported for
North America only once. Although none of the manuals
for North America nor any of the North American revi-
sions of Epilobium (Trelease, 1891; Munz, 1965) have
included E. parviflorum as a member of the flora, Trelease
mentioned it as having been collected on ballast at Hoboken,
New Jersey, by the Hon. Addison Brown prior to 1891. Trelease apparently considered it to be adventive from the Old World and of no importance in the flora.

*Epilobium parviflorum* is a species of wet streambanks, fens, and marshes. The eight localities in Ontario are quite widespread, spanning a distance of approximately one hundred miles. This makes it difficult to speculate on how the plant arrived, and how long it has actually been here. Its habitat and distribution suggest the possibility it might be native, but this cannot be verified. Because of its distinctive morphological features, it is also difficult to explain why it has been previously overlooked. It is likely to be more widespread than even the present collections indicate. Hopefully, this discovery and report of its range will alert collectors, and even further locations might soon come to light. Nevertheless, *E. parviflorum* should definitely be included as a valid element of the Ontario flora at the present time.

**Specimens Examined:**


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