**Vaccinium oxycoccos**

small cranberry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Ericaceae</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Native</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIS Code</td>
<td>OBL CoC 10</td>
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**DESCRIPTION**

Evergreen creeping shrub with reclining stems that root at the nodes. Stems are smooth, wiry and often hidden under the leaf litter and moss. Leaves (3 to 8 mm long) are simple, alternate, leathery, smooth, oblong-oval tapering to a point at the tip and are dark green above and whitish below.

**FLOWERS AND FRUITS**

May to July, September to October. Flowers are stalked, nodding, pink, 5 to 6 mm long, with the four petals curving back toward the stalk causing the anthers (pollen-bearing structures) to protrude in beak-like appearance. Flower stalks have tiny (less than 2 mm long) red bracts below the mid-point of the stalk. Fruits are many-seeded red berries (5 to 12 mm in diameter).

**HABITAT**

Sphagnum bogs and swamps in the mountains.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

*Vaccinium macrocarpon*, large cranberry, has larger elliptical leaves more rounded at the tips (6 to 17 mm long). The flowers and fruit are larger than *V. oxycoccos*, with flowers that are 6 to 10 mm long and berries 1 to 2 cm in diameter. *V. macrocarpon* flowers have bracts 2 mm long or longer, attached above the mid-point of the stalk.