

# Vaccinium oxycoccos



## small cranberry

Family	Ericaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	OBL	CoC	10

### 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.



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### 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.



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*V. oxycoccos*, flowers



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*V. macrocarpon*, flowers



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*V. oxycoccos*, *V. macrocarpon*, fruit