

Antennaria parvifolia Nutt.

Nuttall's pussy-toes
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5S2

General Description: Mat-forming, stoloniferous perennial, seldom over 6 inches tall; basal leaves spatulate or oblanceolate, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and tomentose; pistillate involucres $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch high, their bracts usually blunt, the scarious part generally bright white, sometimes dull white, or occasionally pink; dry pistillate corollas mostly $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long.

Identification Tips: The taxon is similar to *Antennaria rosea*, but commonly appearing stouter, with larger, mostly closely aggregated heads, and on the average larger, relatively broader leaves. Also the tomentum on the leaves of *A. parvifolia* is denser and more copious than in *A. rosea*.

Phenology: Identifiable May to July. This taxon has been observed flowering in early May and flowering and fruiting in late May through June, mostly fruiting in late June and entirely vegetative by early August.

Range: The Great Plains and eastern base of the Rocky Mountains extending westward to British Columbia, Nevada, and Arizona. In WA, it is currently known from the northeast quarter of the state, including Lincoln, Spokane, and Stevens counties, in the Okanogan Highlands and Columbia Basin physiographic provinces. Historically, it was also found in Chelan County in the East Cascades physiographic province.

Habitat: Dry, open areas with sandy or gravelly soil along rivers, creeks, or lake shores, usually in ponderosa pine forests. Associated species include balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), slender cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*), rosy pussy-toes (*Antennaria microphylla*), low pussy-toes (*Antennaria dimorpha*), Douglas's brodiaea (*Brodiaea douglasii*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos alba*), sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), and hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*). Elevation ranges from 1400 to 2600 feet.

Ecology: The taxon occurs in habitats which probably experienced periodic fires but its response to fire is unknown.

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Known distribution of
Antennaria parvifolia
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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State Status Comments: Known from 10 recently (1980-1993) verified populations; 5 historical (1918-1964) sites have not been revisited.

Inventory Needs: Little to no inventory for this species has been conducted in WA. Appropriate habitats in the northeastern portion of WA should be systematically inventoried. Also, historical and known sites should be revisited to estimate population size and trends.

Threats and Management Concerns: Possible threats include grazing, timber harvest, conversion to agricultural or residential development, recreational activities, and road maintenance and construction.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1955. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 5: Compositae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 343 pp.

