

## ***Cochlearia groenlandica* L.**

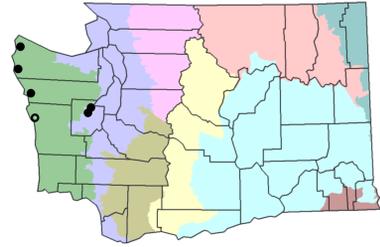
synonym: *Cochlearia officinalis* L.

scurvygrass

Brassicaceae - mustard family

status: State Sensitive, BLM strategic

rank: G4? / S1S2



**General Description:** Fleshy, hairless biennial or perennial (sometimes annual); stems several, decumbent or occasionally erect, (5) 10-30 (35) cm long. Basal leaves in a rosette, petioles slender, usually several times longer than the blades, the blades (5) 10-20 mm long, kidney-shaped, heart-shaped or ovate; margins smooth to wavy. Stem leaves usually with larger blades, sessile or broadly short-petiolate, and generally toothed.

**Floral Characteristics:** Racemes much elongated in fruit; flowers inconspicuous. Sepals 4, not saccate at the base; pedicels ascending, 5-15 mm long. Petals white, 3-5 mm long; stamens 6; style 0.2-0.5 mm long. Flowers June to August.

**Fruits:** Silicles without stalks, oval to elliptic, (3) 4-7 mm long, inflated and somewhat obcompressed, valves prominently nerved. Seeds biseriate, not mucilaginous when wet.

**Identification Tips:** Distinguished from other mustards by its inflated and somewhat obcompressed fruit, maritime habit, fleshy herbage, and basal leaves with long petioles.

**Range:** Circumboreal at high latitudes: islands of the Bering Sea, the Arctic, northern Europe, AK, Canada, and extending southward along the Pacific coast to WA and southern OR.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Maritime. In crevices of rocky bluffs and sea stacks, and in gravel and sand along tidal plains. WA populations have been found near the high tide zone in rocky alluvium, along creek beds, on bluffs in the salt spray zone, and near seabird nesting areas on rocky cliffs with bases that are inundated by high tides.

**Comments:** Threats include plant collecting, the use of heavy equipment in shellfish harvesting, the creation of dikes, and the development of public beaches.



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