

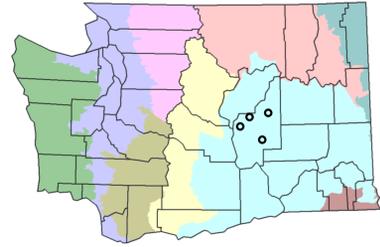
## ***Corispermum pallidum*** Mosyakin

pale bugseed

Chenopodiaceae - goosefoot family

status: State Possibly Extirpated

rank: GH / SH



**General Description:** Adapted from Flora of North America (1993+): Annual branched from the base, 5-25 cm tall, with branched to star-shaped hairs and minute bumps, especially on veins of young bracts and upper leaves. Occasionally almost hairless, especially at maturity. Leaves alternate, blades narrowly linear to linear-spatulate, rarely almost threadlike; flat, or occasionally with slightly rolled-up margins, 20-50 x 1-2 (3) mm.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence terminal, flowers solitary in axils of leaflike bracts. Bracts narrowly ovate-lanceolate or lanceolate, (5) 10-15 (20) x 2-5 mm. Tepal 1 (to sometimes 3 or occasionally absent), small, scalelike.

**Fruits:** Winged utricles, lens-shaped, pale, slightly shiny or dull, usually straw-colored or yellowish brown, occasionally with reddish brown spots, distinctly broadest beyond the middle, 2.8-3.5 (3.8) x 2.4-2.8 (3.3) mm. Wings thin, translucent, 0.7-1 mm wide, margins erose or irregularly toothed. Identifiable in midsummer to fall. In WA, historical occurrences were identified June to July.

**Identification Tips:** This species is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973); it and several other species key to *Corispermum hyssopifolium*, a nonnative species. Mature fruits are needed for identification. *C. pallidum* overlaps in range with *C. villosum* and *C. americanum*. Unlike *C. pallidum*, the fruits of *C. villosum* are not winged. *C. americanum* is distinguished by the wings of its fruit, which have smooth margins (not toothed or bumpy), and are narrower (0.2-0.4 mm wide); it also lacks minute bumps on its young bracts and upper leaves.

**Range:** Endemic to WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Historically found on sandy sagebrush plains in dry or drifting sand, from 300 to 400 m (900-1300 ft). One collection occurred with bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) and Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*). Apparently nearly restricted to the sand deposits of the Quincy Basin in Grant Co.

**Comments:** Known from 4 historical occurrences in Grant and Douglas cos. from 1893 to 1953. Currently, there are no known extant populations. Most of the historic habitat has been converted to irrigated agriculture.

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 4; Mosyakin 1995.



photo by Joe Arnett