

Eritrichium nanum (Vill.) Schrad.
var. ***elongatum*** (Rydb.) Cronq.
pale alpine forget-me-not
Boraginaceae (Borage Family)

Status: State Sensitive
Rank: G4G5T4S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1969):
Eritrichium nanum var. *elongatum* is a blue-flowered, long-lived perennial that is typically 2-8 in. tall, has a dense cluster of long-hairy leaves at the base that are cushion-like, and single leaves alternating on the flower stem. The stems are not apparent or are slender, hairy and up to 4 in. (10 cm) tall. The leaves are mostly oblong or narrowly oblong to ovate, often blunt at the tip, and up to 1/3 in. (1 cm) long and 1/16 in. (1 mm) wide. The leaves are loosely long-hairy, and the surface of the leaf is readily visible at maturity between the hairs. The hairs on the leaf often form a fringe or tuft near the leaf tip. The flower is 1/8 to 1/4 in. (3-7 mm) wide, and the 1-4 fruits are smooth. *E. nanum* var. *elongatum* differs from the typical European *E. nanum* var. *nanum* only in being more densely hairy.

Identification Tips: This is the only taxon of *Eritrichium* in Washington. The genus *Eritrichium* superficially looks like the genus *Myosotis*, but does not have an inflorescence that is curled into a helix, and *Myosotis* is not cushion-like. Other similar species are either white, or do not grow in the same rocky, high elevation habitat.

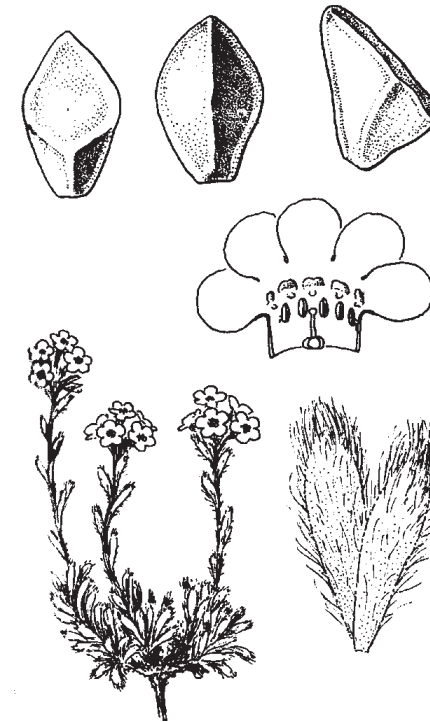
Phenology: This taxon blooms from June through August. This species was observed flowering in Washington in mid-July.

Range: *Eritrichium nanum* var. *elongatum* is circumboreal and occurs irregularly from Eurasia to Alaska and Yukon, south from Montana to northern New Mexico, and west to Oregon. In Washington, disjunct populations occur in Chelan County.

Habitat: This taxon is found in open, rocky places at high altitudes in the mountains at elevations ranging from 7300-8300 feet (2225-2530 m).

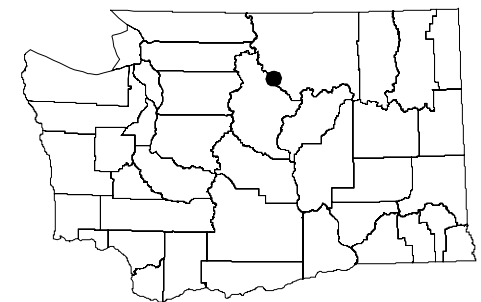
Ecology: The rocky exposed sites and high elevation in which this taxon occurs may decrease competition with other species.

Eritrichium nanum var. ***elongatum***
pale alpine forget-me-not



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Known distribution of
Eritrichium nanum
var. *elongatum*
in Washington



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

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State Status Comments: There are less than five occurrences of this taxon in Washington. The limited range and low number of occurrences contribute to this taxon's status.

Inventory Needs: Open, rocky habitats at high elevations may harbor additional populations of *Eritrichium nanum* var. *elongatum*.

Threats and Management Concerns: Sheep grazing is common near some occurrences and is a possible threat.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 510 pp.

A Field Guide: Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species of the Wenatchee National Forest. USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region.

Smith-Kuebel, C., and T.R. Lillybridge. *Sensitive Plants and Noxious Weeds of the Wenatchee National Forest*. USDA Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region.