

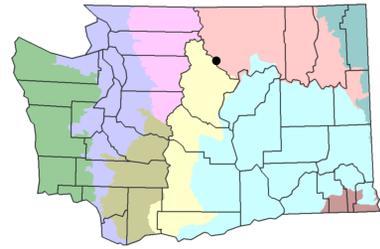
***Eritrichium nanum* (Vill.) Schrad. ex Gaurdin var. *elongatum* (Rydb.) Cronquist**

pale alpine forget-me-not

Boraginaceae - borage family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T4 / S1



General Description: Blue-flowered, long-lived perennial, forming low, cushionlike basal clusters of long-hairy leaves; stemless or with slender, hairy stems up to 1 dm tall. Leaves mostly oblong or narrowly oblong to ovate, often blunt at the tip, up to 1 cm x 2 mm. Mature leaves loosely long-hairy, with the surface of the leaf readily visible between the hairs; hairs often form a fringe or tuft near the leaf tip.

Floral Characteristics: Flower stalk with alternating single leaves; flowers borne in condensed, cymose clusters. Corolla blue, forming a slender tube with an abruptly spreading, 5-lobed limb, 4-8 mm wide. Blooms June to August.

Fruits: 1-4 hairless nutlets.

Identification Tips: This is the only taxon of *Eritrichium* in WA. *Eritrichium* superficially looks like the genus *Myosotis* (forget-me-not), but *Myosotis* has an inflorescence curled into a helix and does not form cushionlike plants. Other similar species are either white-flowered, or do not grow in the same rocky, high elevation habitat. *E. nanum* var. *elongatum* differs from the typical European *E. nanum* var. *nanum* in being more densely hairy.

Range: Circumboreal, occurring irregularly from Eurasia to AK and the Yukon, south from MT to northern NM, and west to OR. WA populations are disjunct.

Habitat/Ecology: Open, exposed, rocky places at high altitudes in the mountains. WA plants occur with granitic rock in alpine cushion plant communities at 2200 to 2600 m (7300-8300 ft) elevation. Associated species include prairie lupine (*Lupinus lepidus* var. *lobbii*), alpine smelowskia (*Smelowskia calycina*), Henderson's phlox (*Phlox hendersonii*), Brewer's sedge (*Carex breweri*), arctic sandwort (*Minuartia obtusiloba*), spiked woodrush (*Luzula spicata*), alpine fescue (*Festuca brachyphylla*), alpine yellow daisy (*Erigeron aureus*), cut-leaved daisy (*E. compositus*), Salish daisy (*E. salishii*), and snow douglasia (*Douglasia nivalis*).

Comments: This taxon is also rare in WY.

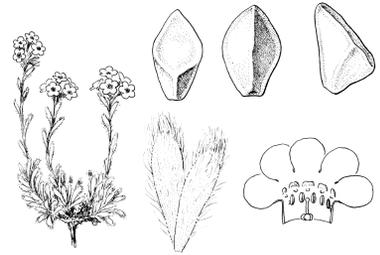


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