

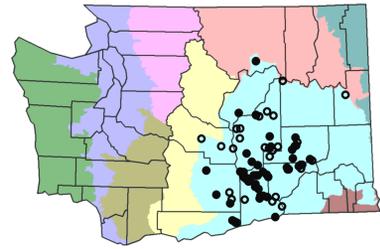
# ***Erigeron piperianus*** Cronquist

Piper's daisy

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive

rank: G3 / S3



**General Description:** Low-growing, slender perennial with a taproot and short branched caudex; stem 3-10 cm high, with coarse, stiff, mostly appressed or ascending hairs. Leaves numerous, linear or nearly so, lax and usually curved, up to 4 cm x 1.5 mm, with spreading, firm, stiff hairs on the margins, especially below, and appressed-hairy on the surface. The lower leaves have a conspicuously enlarged, whitish, hardened base.

**Floral Characteristics:** Radiate flower heads solitary or few, small, the disk 5-10 mm wide. Involucre 3-5 mm high, with spreading long white hairs. Rays 25-40, yellow, 4-9 x 1.0-1.8 mm; disk corollas yellow, mostly 2.8-4.2 mm long. Blooms May to June.

**Fruits:** Achenes with pappus of 15-25 bristles and often some short outer bristles.

**Identification Tips:** Most similar to *Erigeron linearis*, but the margins of the lower leaves of *E. piperianus* have obviously spreading hairs, as opposed to appressed hairs in *E. linearis*. *Erigeron filifolius* has blue to sometimes pink or white rays, and linear leaves without an enlarged, whitish, hardened base. *E. chrysopsidis* has spreading hairs on its stem, wider and narrowly oblanceolate leaves, and larger involucre. *Erigeron piperianus* has pubescence on its stems which is appressed or ascending rather than spreading, and is a smaller and more delicate plant. The ranges of *E. piperianus* and *E. chrysopsidis* do not overlap.

**Range:** Endemic to the Columbia Basin of WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Dry, open places; on level ground to moderate slopes of all aspects, from 120 to 700 m (400-2300 ft). Soils are well drained and somewhat alkaline. Occurs with big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* spp.), shaggy fleabane (*Erigeron pumilus*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), needle-and-thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), and Thurber's needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*). Most common in undisturbed areas of sagebrush steppe, but also reported from grazed and burned sites.

**Comments:** Much of the historic range of the species has been converted to agriculture. Weedy annuals such as cheatgrass may compete with *E. piperianus* for habitat and resources.

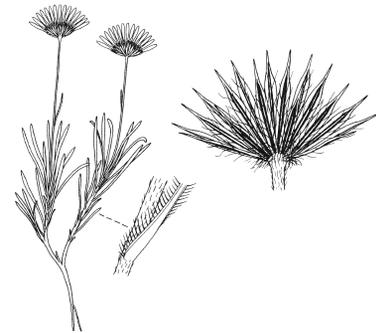


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