

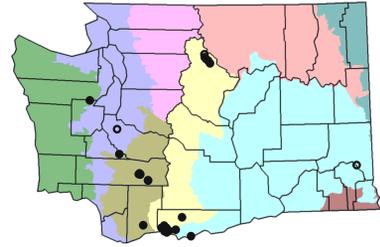
Githopsis specularioides Nutt.

common bluecup

Campanulaceae - harebell family

status: State Sensitive

rank: G5 / S3



General Description: Annual herb up to 30 cm tall (but in WA usually less than 15 cm); stems branched or unbranched. Leaves oblong or narrower, toothed, alternate, sessile, up to 15 x 3 mm.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers occur singly, irregularly scattered on the upper stems, or are strictly terminal on small, unbranched plants. Calyx divided to the hypanthium, the lobes elongate, nearly linear, 5-15 (20) mm long. Corollas 5-lobed, tubular to bell-shaped, deep blue with a whitish throat, typically 1 cm long or less and obscured by the calyx lobes. Dimorphic flowers have been reported (especially to the south of our area), with corollas up to 2 cm long, exceeding the calyx. Stamens free from the corolla and from each other. Flowers mid-April to mid-June, depending on seasonal conditions.

Fruits: Capsules elongate-obconic, prominently ribbed, 6-15 mm long, opening within the calyx by terminal pores.

Identification Tips: This is the only species of *Githopsis* in WA, distinguished by the more or less erect, blue, 5-lobed, bell-shaped corollas; inferior ovary; three-lobed stigma; and stamens distinct, rather than united in a tube. Long calyx lobes enveloping the corolla (the usual condition) are distinctive. The fruiting capsules open only at the apex, within the calyx, rather than laterally and outside the calyx.

Range: Southeastern Vancouver Island, B.C., near Lake Chelan, and in scattered locations in southwest WA, south to Monterey and Kern cos., CA. Disjunct in MT.

Habitat/Ecology: Dry, open places at lower elevations, such as thin soils over bedrock outcrops, grassy balds, talus slopes, and gravelly prairies; microsites are seasonally moist. Habitats are typically open but within or adjacent to forest. It survives best on relatively bare soil, where taller competing vegetation is absent or sparse. Associated species vary greatly, but include Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), and desert-parsley (*Lomatium* spp.). Elevations in WA: 60-760 m (200-2500 ft).

Comments: This small annual can be difficult to detect unless present in large numbers. Populations are generally small, consisting of scattered individuals. It is also rare in B.C. and MT.



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