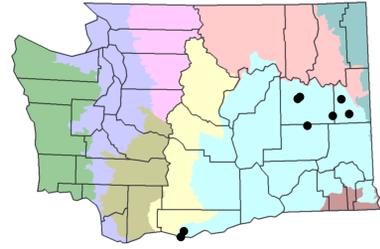


Myosurus clavicaulis M. Peck

synonym: *Myosurus minimus* L. ssp. *apus* (Greene) G.R.
Campb.
mousetail

Ranunculaceae - buttercup family
status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive
rank: G3? / S2



General Description: Adapted from Peck (1961): Tiny annual. Leaves basal, simple, linear to filamentous, spreading, 2-4 cm long.

Floral Characteristics: Scapes several, with terminal, solitary flowers. At maturity, scapes are short and spreading (not erect), so that the fertile heads are hidden among the leaves. Additionally, the heads continue to elongate, so that they are equal to or longer than the scapes, and become conspicuously curved upward. Sepals spatula-shaped, unequal, 3-5 nerved.

Fruits: Many achenes, scarcely diamond-shaped, abruptly contracted beneath the beak, slightly inflated, hairy on the sides, and less than 1.5 mm long; the beak is up to 2/3 shorter than the oblong body and strongly keeled underneath. In WA the species was observed May to June. It is identifiable even when dry.

Identification Tips: This taxon is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). Mature fruits are necessary for accurate identification. *M. clavicaulis* is a result of hybridization between *M. minimus* and *M. sessilis*. However, the *M. clavicaulis* in WA occurs in self-sustaining populations, with one or both parents absent. *M. sessilis* (shown in illustration) does not occur in WA. *M. minimus* is 3-10 cm tall, has erect or ascending scapes, and fertile heads that extend beyond the leaves.

Range: WA, OR, and CA.

Habitat/Ecology: An obligate vernal pool species; found on hard, bare, dessicated clay, in sparsely vegetated areas of shallow pools. Elevations in WA: 80-740 m (250-2500 ft). Associated species include popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys* spp.), annual hairgrass (*Deschampsia danthonioides*), white-flower navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala*), fruitleaf knotweed (*Polygonum polygaloides* ssp. *confertiflorum*), and mousetail (*Myosurus minimus*). It may not germinate in low-precipitation years.

Comments: The WA occurrences of *M. clavicaulis* are not recent hybrids of *M. minimus* and *M. sessilis*, but likely self-sustaining descendants of very old hybrid swarms. There are populations of *M. x clavicaulis* in CA that are the result of ongoing crosses between *M. minimus* and *M. sessilis*; they are not self-sustaining.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 3; Peck 1961.



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