

***Oxytropis campestris* (L.) DC. var. *gracilis* (A. Nelson) Barneby**

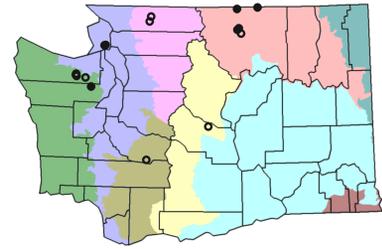
synonym: *Oxytropis monticola* A. Gray

slender crazyweed

Fabaceae - pea family

status: State Sensitive

rank: G5T5? / S2



General Description: Perennial, 5-28 cm tall, grayish green and hairy. Leaves basal, 3-20 cm long, pinnately compound. Leaflets usually more than 17 (13-33), broadly lanceolate-oblong to narrowly elliptic, 5-30 mm long. Stipules membranous, 5-15 mm long, adnate at least half their length, strongly long-ciliate, lower surface usually hairy.

Floral Characteristics: Scapes mostly over 15 cm tall; racemes with 10-30 flowers. Flowers 10-20 mm long, yellowish white, the keel not spotted. Calyx loosely grayish to black hairy, about 1/2 the length of the corolla; teeth linear-oblong, 1-4 mm long. Flowers May to June.

Fruits: Pods 1-2.5 cm long, sessile or very short stalked, walls membranous, scarcely 0.5 mm thick; beak slender, about 5 mm long. Fruits June to July.

Identification Tips: Stipules strongly hairy, scapes mostly over 15 cm, and leaves usually with greater than 17 leaflets. *O. campestris* var. *cusickii* also has a yellowish white keel that is not spotted, but the stipules of var. *cusickii* are not or only slightly hairy, scapes are rarely over 15 cm long, and there are usually less than 17 leaflets.

Range: Southwestern Manitoba west to B.C., Rocky Mts. from Alberta south to CO, SD, and west to the northern Cascades and Olympic Mts. of WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Prairies, alpine meadows, open woodlands, and gravelly flood plains in moist or dry soils. In WA it grows in montane sites on glacial outwash terraces in sandy loam soil, scree, and alpine tundra from 570 to 2300 m (1870-7600 ft). Also found in San Juan Co., in open grasslands and on steep, dry, south-facing rock outcrops with shallow soil and some herbaceous cover, often in the salt spray zone. Associated species there include red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), thrift seapink (*Armeria maritima*), Virginia pepperweed (*Lepidium virginicum*), yellow hairgrass (*Aira praecox*), and soft brome (*Bromus hordaceus*). When growing in deciduous woodland, open pine forest, or in moist meadows, the plants often have soft, shaggy hairs and thin green leaflets. Plants in drier or more exposed sites commonly have silky hairs and smaller, thicker leaflets.

Comments:

References: Barneby 1952.



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