

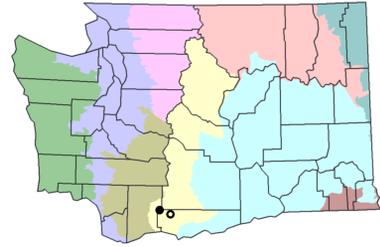
Polygonum parryi Greene

Parry's knotweed

Polygonaceae - buckwheat family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic

rank: G4 / S1?



General Description: Hairless, compact, often cushionlike annual herb; stems simple to branched at the base, 2-5 (8) cm tall. Leaves sessile, linear-lanceolate, awl shaped, 5-13 (20) mm x 0.4-1 mm, 3-veined, with revolute margins and a spine-tipped apex. Stipules 2-4 (5) mm long, overlapping, forming a cylinder around the stem, the free part lacerate with white, curled fibers.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers axillary, mostly solitary, sessile, closed, 1.5-2 (2.5) mm long, divided nearly to the base into 5 oblong, reddish tepals with white margins. Stigmas 3, almost sessile. Stamens 8, with only the inner 3 fertile.

Fruits: Achenes smooth, lustrous, ovate, dark brown, 3-angled, slightly protruding from the tepals at maturity, 1.2-1.6 (2) mm.

Identification Tips: In our area, this species is identifiable May to July. *P. parryi*, *P. heterosepalum*, and *P. californicum* are all annuals with flowers sessile in the leaf axils. However, *P. heterosepalum* and *P. californicum* sometimes have 2-3 flowers per axil, and the free segments of the stipules are rigid, straight, stiffly erect, and almost bristly. *P. californicum* is taller (up to 20 cm) and openly branched, rather than compact and cushionlike.

Range: WA to southern CA.

Habitat/Ecology: Vernal moist areas in otherwise dry habitats; open places with sandy, gravelly, or rocky soil. In WA this species grows at 640 m (2100 ft) in an open oak woodland with a high diversity of other annuals. The substrate is a gravelly volcanic clay loam over basalt bedrock; it probably has subsurface moisture through the growing season. Associated species include Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), rareflower heterocodon (*Heterocodon rariflorum*), barestem biscuitroot (*Lomatium nudicaule*), subalpine mariposa lily (*Calochortus subalpinus*), grassy tarweed (*Madia gracilis*), spreading groundsmoke (*Gayophytum diffusum*), and prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*).

Comments: Known from 1 historical and 1 extant occurrence. Heavy gravelly soils and vernal pools in Klickitat Co. should be systematically surveyed for additional populations.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 5.

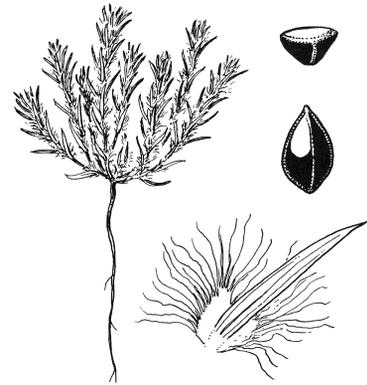


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