

Sidalcea hirtipes C.L. Hitchcock

hairy-stemmed checker-mallow

Malvaceae (Mallow Family)

Status: State Endangered

Rank: G2S1

General Description: Perennial herb that produces stems up to five or six feet tall that arise from creeping rhizomes. The leaves have 5-7 lobes, with those on the upper stem more deeply divided and coarsely toothed than those at the base. Both the stems and leaves are covered with long, stiff hairs. The large, pinkish-lavender flowers are congested toward the tip of the stem in spikelike racemes and are borne on stout pedicels. The calyx reaches 3/8 to 5/8 inch in length and is covered with fine hairs that are often purplish.

Identification Tips: *S. nelsoniana* and *S. hendersonii* both occur within the range of *S. hirtipes*. The calyx of *S. hirtipes* is longer and more pubescent, the petals are longer and the stem is much more hirsute than those of *S. nelsoniana*. *S. hendersonii* occurs only on tideflats while *S. hirtipes* never occurs on tideflats.

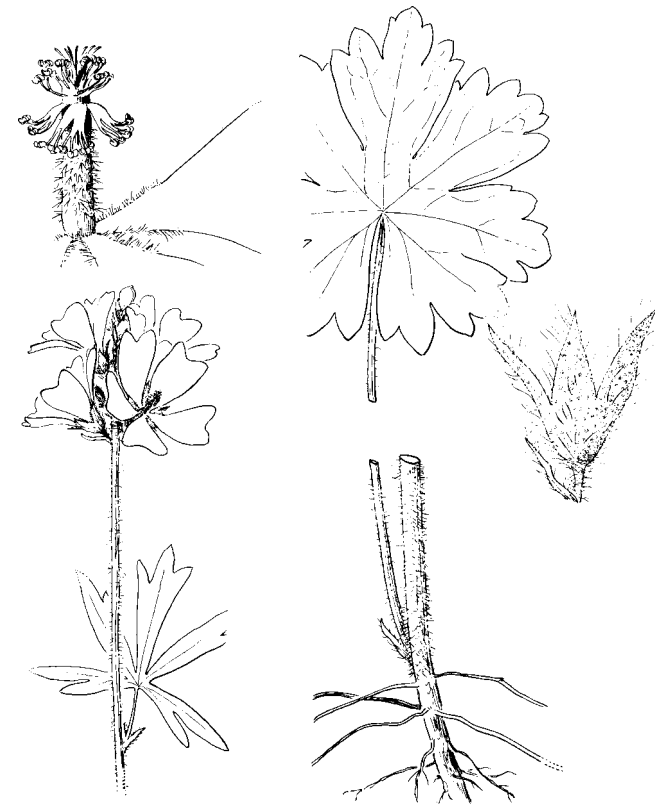
Phenology: Most observations of the species in Washington are from early June to mid-July, when the species is in bloom. Seeds are probably dispersed by mid-August.

Range: Regional endemic: Clark, Lewis, and Wahkiakum counties, WA and Clatsop, Lincoln, and Tillamook counties, OR. Occurs in the Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington, Puget Trough, and Western Cascades physiographic provinces.

Habitat: Remnant prairie fragments along fencerows and openings along drainages in the Puget Trough in the Western Hemlock Zone of Franklin and Dyrness (1973). Some occurrences are in fairly mesic habitats associated with creeks and streams. Associated species include, large-leaved lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*), woolly vetch (*Vicia villosa*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), large-leaved avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and oxeye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*). Nearby shrubs include Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). Species in nearby woodland thickets

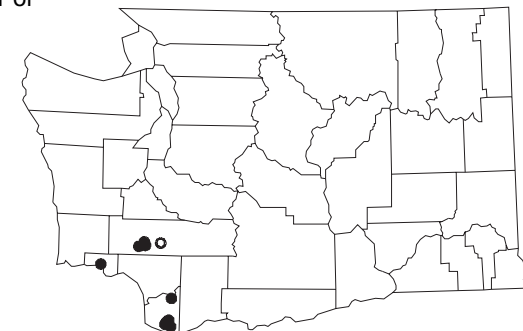
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Known distribution of
Sidalcea hirtipes
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Lois Kemp



John Gamon

Sidalcea hirtipes

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Habitat (continued): include Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) and Pacific crab apple (*Malus fusca*). One occurrence is located along a steep, south-facing bluff adjacent to the Columbia River. The vegetation at this site is predominantly Oregon stonecrop (*Sedum oregonum*), small-flowered alumroot (*Heuchera micrantha*), poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

Ecology: In the Puget Trough, *S. hirtipes* occurs in prairie openings that were probably historically maintained by frequent fires set by Native Americans. Shrub and deciduous tree invasion occurs fairly rapidly in the absence of fire or some other disturbance. Some of the sites are subject to short-term, periodic flooding.

State Status Comments: There are currently only five known occurrences in Washington. Individual populations are mostly very small and restricted to small isolated fragments of remnant habitat.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed throughout its range in WA. Inventory to date has consisted mostly of looking along fencerows adjacent to public roads.

Threats and Management Concerns: Fire suppression (and/or the lack of prescribed fire) has resulted in the loss of open areas as plant succession has occurred. In some areas, grazing of livestock has served to keep shrub and tree invasion suppressed. However, grazing is thought to be the primary reason for the extirpation of the species from at least one site. Other threats include outright conversion of the land, road construction and maintenance, and alteration of the hydrologic regimes.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.

Hitchcock, C.L. 1957. A Study of the Perennial Species of *Sidalcea*. Part I: Taxonomy. University of Washington Publications in Biology 18: 1-79.