

Calochortus macrocarpus* Douglas var. *maculosus

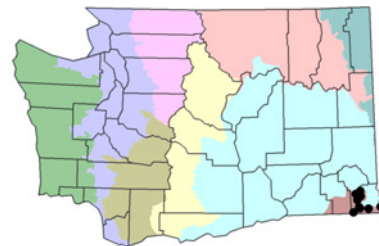
(A. Nelson & J.F. Macbr.) A. Nelson & J.F. Macbr.

sagebrush mariposa-lily

Liliaceae - lily family

status: State Endangered, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T2 / S1



General Description: Perennial herb 2-5 dm tall, with an erect, stout, usually unbranched stem arising from a basal bulblet. Leaves basal, linear, channeled, becoming inrolled and curled at the tip.

Floral Characteristics: Bracts 2 or more, linear, with a pointed tip, unequal. Flowers 1-3, showy, erect. Sepals narrowly lanceolate, tapering to a long sharp point, 4-5 cm, generally longer than the petals. Petals 4-6 cm, obovate, white or nearly so, with a longitudinal green stripe on the outer surface. The gland on the inner surface of the petal is triangular-oblong, surrounded with a broad, continuous, fringed membrane and densely covered with slender hairs. Above the gland, the inner petal has a conspicuous transverse reddish purple band and is bearded with slender hairs. Stamens 6, anthers linear, about 1 cm, longer than the filaments.

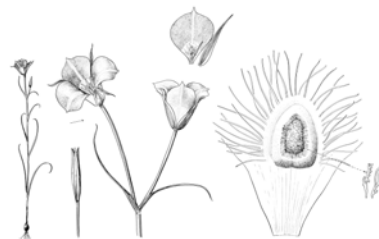


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Press

Fruits: Capsules linear-lanceolate with a pointed tip, 3-angled but not winged, erect, 4-5 cm. Seeds flat, inflated, straw-colored. Flowers and fruits July to August.

Identification Tips: Distinguished from *C. macrocarpus* var. *macrocarpus* by its white petals, conspicuous reddish purple band on inner petals above the gland, and narrow, 3-sided fruits.

Range: Southeastern corner of WA and adjacent ID and OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Undisturbed, dry habitats in rocky, basaltic substrates on hillsides, rock outcrops, cliff bands, and grasslands on steep slopes. Associates include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*). Elevations in WA : 300-1370 m (1000-4480 ft).



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Comments: This taxon is rare throughout its range: the estimated total population in WA is less than 1,000 plants. Both varieties of *C. macrocarpus* are highly palatable to livestock and easily extirpated from heavily grazed areas. However, var. *maculosus* prefers rugged, remote terrain, which protects it from some grazing threats. Some populations are also threatened by invasive weeds, including yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 26.



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