

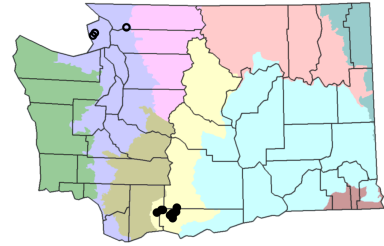
# ***Orthocarpus bracteosus* Benth.**

rosy owl-clover

Orobanchaceae - broomrape family

status: State Endangered, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G3? / S1



**General Description:** Erect annual with limited branching, 1-4 dm tall, minutely hairy, the upper part of plant and inflorescence somewhat sticky-glandular. Leaves alternate, narrow, 1.5-3.5 cm long, the lower ones entire, long-lanceolate, the upper with 3 spreading lobes, gradually becoming bractlike above.

**Floral Characteristics:** Bracts glandular-hairy, purplish, broad, with 3 narrow lobes. Spikes compact; flowers showy, rose pink, purple, or occasionally white, exceeding the bracts. Calyx glandular-hairy, 2-lobed, with cleft segments. Corolla 12-20 mm long. Upper lip of corolla with a closed beaklike tip, enclosing anthers and style, and with a prominent downward-pointing, hairless, cylindrical hook. Lower lip strongly sac-shaped, toothless; anthers hairy, 2-celled. Flowers June to August.

**Fruits:** Capsules 5-7 mm.

**Identification Tips:** The rose pink color of the flowers is unique among Pacific Northwest species of *Orthocarpus*. *O. imbricatus* has pinkish purple upper bracts that are not or only slightly glandular, purplish corollas, and nearly linear, entire leaves.

**Range:** Vancouver Island, B.C., to OR, mostly west of the Cascades, and southward east of the Cascades to Plumas Co., CA. Also reported to occur in MD and NY.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Extant sites in WA are all associated with moist meadows in the transition zone between wetland and upland; they are dominated by grasses and forbs, in full sunlight with little to no shrub or tree cover. Adjacent forested areas are mostly ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Other associates include sedges (*Carex* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), yellow owl-clover (*Orthocarpus luteus*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja tenuis*), biscuitroot (*Lomatium nudicaule*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), and tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Elevations in WA: 500-1000 m (1800-3000 ft).

**Comments:** Historical sites in San Juan and Whatcom cos. have not been relocated. Threats include livestock grazing, hydrologic changes, road maintenance, and herbicide applications for weed control. This taxon is also rare in B.C.

**References:** Guard 1995; Hickman 1993; Pojar & MacKinnon 1994.

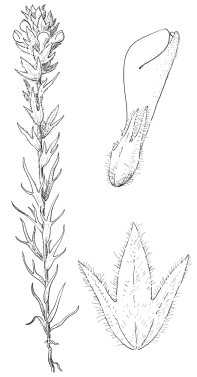


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