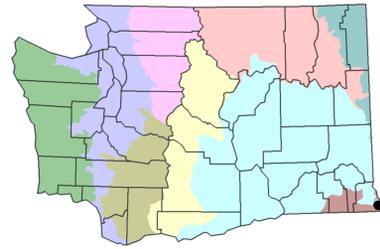


Arabis crucisetosa Constance & Rollins
cross-haired rockcress
Brassicaceae - mustard family
status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive
rank: G4G5 / S1



General Description: Short-lived perennial; stems several, often sparingly branched, 1-4 dm tall. Leaves mostly in basal rosettes, oblanceolate to narrowly obovate, margins smooth to toothed toward the tip, 2-5 cm x 5-20 mm, tapered to a short petiole. Lower surface covered with stalked hairs that are cross-shaped or branched, upper surface with few or no hairs. Stem leaves few, sessile or with a short petiole but not clasping, lanceolate to oblanceolate, 1-3 cm long, sparsely hairy (hairs 2- or 3-rayed).

Floral Characteristics: Racemes with 2-20 flowers. Pedicels slender, 10-15 mm long; sepals 4, 3-4 mm long. Petals 4, white, 6-8 mm long, obovate-spatulate. Flowers late March to June.

Fruits: Hairless siliques, ascending-erect, linear, 20-25 x 1 mm, slightly compressed, valves 1-nerved; style about 1 mm long. Seeds uniseriate, 1 mm long, wingless.

Identification Tips: Basal leaves have cross-shaped hairs on the lower surface. Though a single stem is the normal habit of growth, grazed specimens are usually branched. Leaf margins lack the conspicuous cilia found on *A. furcata* and *A. nuttallii*.

Range: Western ID, eastern OR, and bordering the Clearwater and Snake Rivers in WA.

Habitat/Ecology: The solitary population in WA is in a steep canyon grassland community dominated by Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) and associated with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). In OR it is found in a variety of communities, including mid- to low-elevation north-facing grassy slopes dominated by Idaho fescue; lower-elevation grasslands in association with snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and Snake River phlox (*Phlox colubrina*); and mid- to high-elevation coniferous forests in open ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and grand fir (*Abies grandis*) stands. Soil types include sedimentary, granitic, and basaltic soils. Elevations rangewide: 300-1370 m (1000-4500 ft).

Comments: Invasive weeds are threatening the WA population. The construction of dams may have reduced lowland habitat around the Snake River.

References: Rollins 1936, 1993.



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
©1964 University of Washington
Press



photo by Tracy Rush



photo by Tracy Rush