**Corydalis aquae-gelidae** M. Peck & W.C. Wilson

synonym: **Corydalis caseana** A. Gray ssp. *aquae-gelidae* (M. Peck & W.C. Wilson) Zetterlund & Lidén

Clackamas corydalis
Fumariaceae - fumitory family

status: State Sensitive, Federal Species of Concern, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G3 / S2S3

**General Description:** Hairless perennial herb with watery juice, from deep, fleshy roots; stems leafy, succulent, hollow and tubular, 3-11 dm tall, simple to branched. Leaves several, yellowish green, whitish waxy on the lower surface. Lower stem leaves up to 6 dm long, 4-6 times pinnate; ultimate segments mostly 5-12 (15) x 1.5-6 mm, numerous, elliptic.

**Floral Characteristics:** Terminal and axillary racemes simple to compound, conspicuously bracteate, compactly 20-70 flowered, up to 22 cm long. Sepals 2, membranous, ephemeral. Corolla 12-20 mm long, pale to deep pink to rose lavender, the inner petals more deeply colored at the tip. Petals 4, arranged as inner and outer pairs. Outer upper petal hooded and conspicuously crested above, spurred at the base, spur 9-11 mm, longer than the petal blade. Outer lower petal not spurred. Inner pair smaller, fused at the tip. Flowers June to September, dying by late August to September, often early compared to co-occurring species.

**Fruits:** Several-seeded capsule, ellipsoid, 8-15 mm long, explosively dehiscent.

**Identification Tips:** *Corydalis scouleri* is similar and occurs within the same range, but has lower stem leaves only 2-4 times pinnate, longer ultimate leaf segments (2-8 cm long), fewer flowers per raceme (15-35), and a larger corolla (20-30 mm).

**Range:** Regional endemic of WA and Clackamas and Multnomah cos., OR.

**Habitat/Ecology:** In or near cold, flowing water, including seeps and small streams; often occurring in stream channels. Moist shady woods, primarily in the western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) and silver fir (*Abies amabilis*) zones. It prefers intermediate levels of overstory canopy closure, providing enough light for flowering and reproduction, yet not so much light that a dense cover of shrubs develops. Elevations in WA: 380-1280 m (1250-4200 ft).

**Comments:** Hydrology-altering activities are the greatest threat to this taxon. Roadside chemical spraying has posed a threat to some populations in the past. This species is also rare in OR.


Adapted from *Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Washington*
http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/CAMFIE.html