

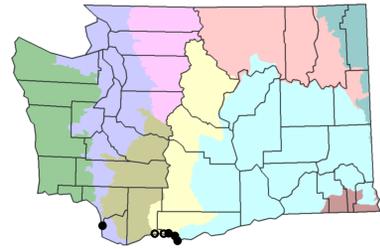
***Collinsia sparsiflora* Fisch. & C.A. Mey. var. *bruceae* (M.E. Jones) Newsom**

few-flowered collinsia

Scrophulariaceae - figwort family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4T4 / S1S2



General Description: Annual, 5-20 cm tall, simple or branched, erect, hairless or minutely hairy. Leaves opposite throughout, the lower ones with petioles, blades broadly elliptic or nearly round, about 1 cm long or less, often deciduous; upper leaves narrow and becoming sessile, linear to linear-oblong, mostly entire, up to about 3 cm x 5 mm.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers 1-3 per axil of upper nodes, with long pedicels. Calyx 5-11 mm long, lobes 5, fused into a tube below, lanceolate to narrowly lance-triangular, pointed, much longer than the tube, commonly concealing much of the corolla tube. Corolla 2-lipped, the central lobe of lower lip forming a pouch that encloses the stamens, bluish lavender or white, 8-11 mm long, the tube abruptly bent near the base, forming an oblique angle with the calyx and strongly enlarged on the upper side at the bend. Stamens 4; upper pair of filaments shortly spreading-hairy over most of their length. Blooms mid-March through April.

Fruits: Capsules nearly spherical, 4-6 mm wide; seeds flattened, irregularly wing-margined, cellular-reticulate, 3-4 mm long.

Identification Tips: Distinguished by the hairy upper filaments; capsules nearly spherical rather than ellipsoid; and seeds cellular-reticulate and flattened with an irregular winged margin, rather than turgid with thickened inrolled margins.

Range: Columbia River Gorge, WA, to the Snake River Canyon in OR, and CA.

Habitat/Ecology: Thin soils over basalt on almost flat to steep, generally south-facing slopes; moist in spring, but becoming dry by summer. In WA it grows in the transition zone between the Eastern Cascades and Columbia Basin physiographic provinces, at elevations of 60-370 m (200-1200 ft). Microsites are usually open with a dense herb layer, but this plant also is found in open stands of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*). Other associates include balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), biscuitroot (*Lomatium spp.*), woodland-star (*Lithophragma spp.*), and Douglas's blue-eyed grass (*Olsynium douglasii*).

Comments: Threats include residential development, livestock grazing, and competition from weedy annuals, which currently dominate much of the potential habitat.

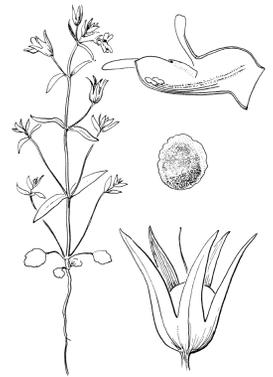


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