

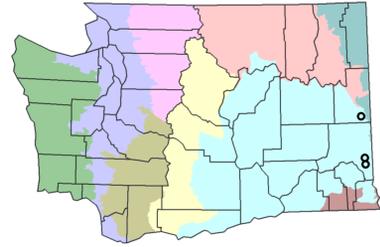
Eryngium articulatum Hook

jointed coyote-thistle

Apiaceae - carrot family

status: State Possibly Extirpated

rank: G5 / SH



General Description: Fibrous-rooted perennial from a short, simple crown, 3-10 dm tall, with a bluish waxy coating and widely spreading flower stalks above. Leaves all simple. Basal petioles elongate, hollow, with swollen partitions, often lacking leaf blades. Stem petioles progressively shorter toward the top of the plant until lacking. Stem blades mostly 1-3 cm wide, elliptic, toothed with small spines or with marginal spinelike hairs.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers and fruit sessile in a densely head-shaped inflorescence (not umbellate), heads mostly 1-1.5 cm wide. Bracts and calyx lobes bluish-tinged; calyx lobes 3-5 mm long, tapering to a sharp point. Corollas bright blue to purple.

Fruits: Ovoid, 2-3 mm long, densely covered with scales that are textured with a network of small cavities and abruptly tipped by a slender point. Observed in WA late July to late August.

Identification Tips: A conspicuous plant, appearing like a blue- to purple-flowered thistle, with a bluish white waxy coating and numerous spines. The only *Eryngium* in the Pacific Northwest that bears a blue to purple inflorescence.

Range: OR and northern CA. Historically from WA and Lake Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Habitat/Ecology: An obligate wetland species found on low ground near lakes, often partially submerged. In WA it occurred on flats along streams, in gravelly streambeds, and dried up streams at 700 to 720 m (2340-2360 ft) elevation.

Comments: In WA known from 3 historic reports; no individuals have been seen since 1916. Several recent surveys throughout its historic range were unsuccessful in finding extant populations. Grazing and agriculture have altered most of the streams of eastern WA; there may be little appropriate habitat left in the state.

References: Hickman 1993.



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