

## ***Eriogonum maculatum*** A. Heller

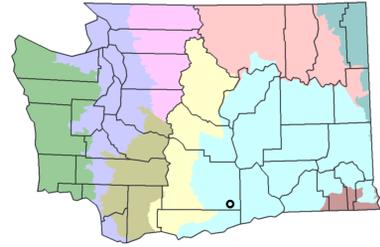
synonym: *Eriogonum angulosum* Benth. (misapplied)

spotted buckwheat

Polygonaceae - buckwheat family

status: State Possibly Extirpated, USFS strategic

rank: G5 / SX



**General Description:** Spreading, freely branched annual, 10-30 cm tall, with woolly hairs throughout. Stems 1 to several, broadly spreading, tending to branch in threes below, and in twos above. Leaves basal and also at the first few nodes. Basal leaves with lanceolate to obovate blades 1-3 (4) x 1-1.5 (2) cm, narrowing to a short petiole, densely covered with short, soft, white hairs, especially below. Stem leaves sessile, gradually reduced upward, lanceolate to oblanceolate.

**Floral Characteristics:** Peduncles solitary in the nodes, threadlike, (5) 10-30 mm long, terminating in a bell-shaped or cup-shaped involucre bearing multiple flowers. Involucres hairy, glandular, 1-1.5 (2) x 1.5-3 (3.5) mm, with 5 erect to flaring, rounded lobes. Flowers minutely hairy and glandular, 1-2.5 mm long, 6-parted, white to yellow, becoming pink to reddish. The 3 outer tepals have a single large reddish purple spot, are inflated from base to middle, and are wider and shorter than the 3 lanceolate inner tepals.

**Fruits:** Achenes 3-angled, brown, 1-1.5 mm long, hairless. Throughout its range, the species is identifiable June to July. In WA, it was observed in early June.

**Identification Tips:** *E. maculatum* is readily distinguished from other *Eriogonum* species by the swollen bases of the outer tepals, each with solitary large purple spots. *E. baileyi* var. *baileyi* lacks the swollen bases of the outer tepals; its leaves are all basal and rosette-forming, with nearly orbicular blades 0.5-2 x 0.5-2 cm, and petioles 1-3 cm long.

**Range:** Southeast OR and southwest ID, through CA, NV and UT, to southern AZ.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Sandy to heavy soils, chiefly in arid sagebrush desert. In CA it is found from 100 to 2500 m (300-8200 ft) elevation.

**Comments:** *Eriogonum maculatum* has not been seen in WA since it was collected in 1884. The area of the historical collection site was revisited in 1981; no individuals were found.

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 5; Hickman 1993; Reveal 1985.

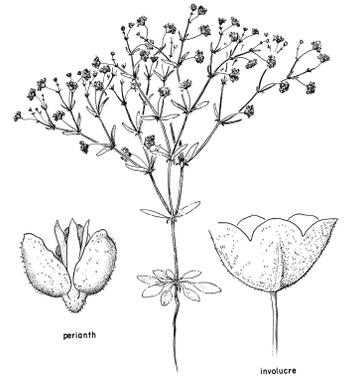


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