

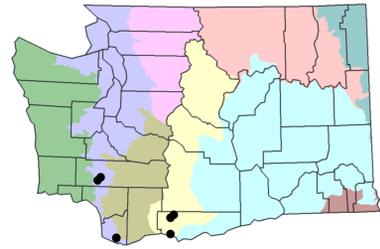
***Eryngium petiolatum* Hook.**

Oregon coyote-thistle

Apiaceae - carrot family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Fibrous-rooted perennial from a short simple crown, 1.5-5 dm tall, with widely spreading branches, often from near the base. Leaves simple. Basal petioles more or less elongate, hollow, with swollen partitions, commonly bladeless. Stem leaves with progressively shorter petioles, the blades narrowly elliptic, up to about 1 cm wide, toothed with small spines or nearly smooth-margined.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers and fruits sessile in a densely capitate inflorescence (not umbellate), heads mostly 1 cm wide or less. Bracteoles subtending the heads often conspicuously surpassing the flowers and fruit, sometimes slightly bluish-tinted, but the heads not appearing bluish. Calyx lobes about 3 mm long, acuminate. Corollas white. Flowers June to August.

Fruits: More or less ovoid, about 2 mm long, covered with prominent gradually tapering scales that are basally hollow, slightly inflated, and mostly 1-1.5 mm long.

Identification Tips: This plant has a distinctive, spiny, thistlelike appearance. Only 2 species of *Eryngium* are known from WA. *E. petiolatum* has white flowers and grows in southwestern WA and the Columbia River Gorge; *E. articulatum* occurred historically near the ID border and has blue flowers.

Range: Willamette Valley of OR to the eastern end of the Columbia River Gorge in WA and OR.

Habitat/Ecology: An obligate wetland species of wet prairies, swales, shallow ditches, and low ground, especially in places submerged in the spring and drier in the summer. Associated species include various grasses, sedges (*Carex spp.*), rushes (*Juncus spp.*), fragrant popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys figuratus*), and greater creeping spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*). Elevations in WA: 55-560 m (180-1850 ft). Historically, *E. petiolatum*'s wet prairie habitat was maintained by Native Americans through periodic burning. Fire suppression has resulted in the invasion of these wet prairies by woody vegetation.

Comments: There are 6 known sites in WA. Hydrologic alteration through residential and industrial development poses the greatest threat to the taxon; grazing, agricultural conversion, and weed invasions are also potential threats.

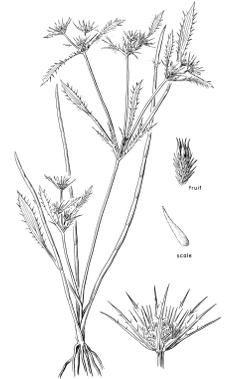


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