

Erythranthe suksdorfii (A. Gray) N.S. Fraga

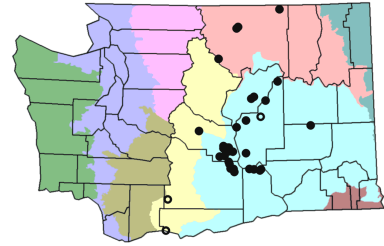
synonym: *Mimulus suksdorfii* A. Gray

Suksdorf's monkeyflower

Scrophulariaceae - figwort family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S2



General Description: Slender, often much-branched annual, glandular-hairy, 3-10 cm tall. Stem leaves small, up to 2 cm long; numerous; opposite; linear, oblong, or oblanceolate in shape, with 1-3 nerves; sessile or the lower with short petioles.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers axillary, pedicels less than 1 cm long when flowering, widely spreading in fruit, the tips upturned. Calyx glandular-hairy, 3-5 mm long when flowering, lobes short and rounded with a small, abruptly pointed tip. Corolla yellow, faintly spotted, narrow, 4-8 mm long, slightly greater than the calyx, only slightly 2-lipped, lobes notched at the tip, the throat scarcely 2 mm wide, hairy within. Flowers mid-April in warmer microsites, continuing as long as the habitat remains moist.

Fruits: Capsules with many seeds.

Identification Tips: Distinguished by its annual habit, narrow leaves that are tapered to the sessile base, small yellow flowers that are only slightly 2-lipped, and pedicels widely spreading in fruit. *E. suksdorfii* is most likely to be confused with *E. breviflora*, which has narrowly elliptic or rhombic-elliptic leaves with short petioles, and fruiting pedicels that are loosely ascending.

Range: CA to WA, and east to MT, WY, CO, and AZ.

Habitat/Ecology: Open, moist or dry places, from valleys and foothills to moderate or occasionally high elevations in the mountains. In WA, *E. suksdorfii* occurs in seasonally moist swales, drainages, or vernal pools within sagebrush steppe vegetation, from 130 to 2160 m (430-7100 ft) elevation. Microhabitats are often disturbed by small erosive events (i.e., slumps, slides, bioturbation, or frost boils). Individual plants are most vigorous where the substrate has been slightly disturbed. Associated species include mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), spring draba (*Draba verna*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), monkeyflower (*Erythranthe floribunda*, *E. breviflora*, and others), and Hilgard's suncup (*Camissonia hilgardii*).

Comments: This species' habitat has been degraded by livestock, agriculture, and military training activities, resulting in the introduction of exotic species, trampling, hydrologic alteration, and increased erosion. It is also rare in MT and WY.



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