

***Hackelia diffusa*** (Douglas ex Lehm.) I.M. Johnst.

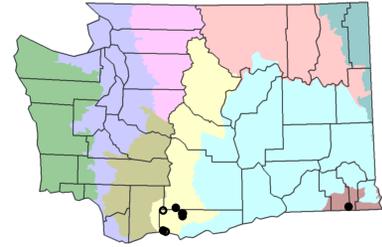
**var. *diffusa***

diffuse stickseed

Boraginaceae - borage family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4T3 / S2



**General Description:** Adapted from Gentry & Carr (1976): Perennial (2) 4-6 (7) dm tall; stems few, erect or ascending, with strongly spreading, moderately long, coarse hairs, becoming appressed upwardly in the inflorescence. Basal leaves 12-23 cm x 10-26 mm, elliptic, petiolate for 1/3 (1/2) their length, with coarse stiff hairs. Stem leaves mostly sessile, the lower ones 9-14 cm x 12-17 mm, elliptic, becoming smaller and lanceolate or linear-lanceolate above.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers borne in an elongating false raceme, pedicels 5-8 (11) mm long in fruit. Calyx 2.5-4.2 mm long, parted nearly to the base. Corolla limb 5-lobed, 7-13 mm wide, blue or cream, with a yellowish throat. Swellings at the top of the throat are papillate to shortly hairy. Flowers May to June.

**Fruits:** Nutlets usually 4, 3.0-3.6 mm long, ovate; dorsal surface rough, warty, with small stiff hairs, the intramarginal prickles distinct, about 10. Prominent marginal prickles distinct to their bases, not forming a cuplike border, 2.0-3.3 mm long, these alternating with 1-3 short barbs.

**Identification Tips:** This variety is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). *H. diffusa* var. *cottonii* also occurs in the Columbia River Gorge but farther to the east. Variety *cottonii* has much sparser, shorter, and often appressed hairs, stouter nutlets, shorter intramarginal prickles, and rarely has any blue coloration in its typically smaller corolla. Intermediates of these 2 varieties grow between Hood River and The Dalles.

**Range:** Columbia River Gorge of OR and WA from Troutdale to The Dalles; the Klickitat and White Salmon River drainages of WA; and the Thompson and Fraser River Canyons of B.C. A report from the Blue Mts. in southeastern WA has not been verified.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Bottoms of mossy talus and scree slopes, shaded areas, cliffs, roadsides, and other disturbed sites. Reported with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), grand fir (*Abies grandis*), Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum* var. *douglasii*), and mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*). Elevations in WA: 300-550 m (1000-1800 ft). One unconfirmed report in the Blue Mountains is at nearly 800 m (2600 ft).

**Comments:** This taxon is also rare in OR.

**References:** Gentry & Carr 1976.



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