

Heterotheca oregona (Nutt.) Shinnery

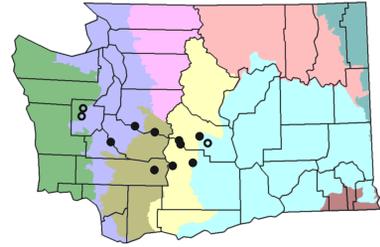
synonym: *Chrysopsis oregona* (Nutt.) A. Gray

Oregon goldenaster

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: A taprooted perennial herb or subshrub with several stems from a woody base, 15-105 cm tall. Herbage finely stalked-glandular and sparsely covered with rough, stiff hairs (but sometimes nearly hairless). Leaves alternate; lowermost reduced and deciduous, the others uniformly distributed along the stem, sessile, oblong to lanceolate, 15-58 x 3.4-14.8 mm.

Floral Characteristics: Heads several in a corymblike inflorescence, discoid (lacking ray flowers). Involucre 7.5-14 mm high; bracts imbricate, thin and transparent toward the margins, gradually tapering to a sharp point. Disk flowers yellow, (7.5) 8.5-11 (14) mm.

Fruits: More or less flattened achenes, sparsely strigose. Pappus double, the outer much shorter than the inner, but outer bristles are few and obscure (less than 0.5 mm); inner pappus of capillary bristles. Identifiable June to September.

Identification Tips: *Heterotheca villosa**, the only other *Heterotheca* in the Pacific Northwest, is distinguished by the presence of ray flowers and an evident outer pappus.

Range: From WA to CA, chiefly west of the Cascade Mts. but also occasionally along their eastern base. In WA it is known from only a few locations on both sides of the Cascade crest.

Habitat/Ecology: On sand and gravel bars along rivers and streams. In WA on a sandy riverbank at the edge of a mixed Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forest at 800 m (2600 ft). Seasonal river flooding is probably important in maintaining habitat for this species.

Comments:

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 20; Hickman 1993.

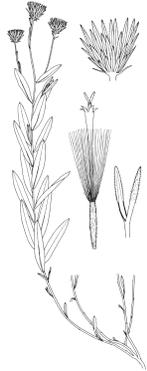


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