

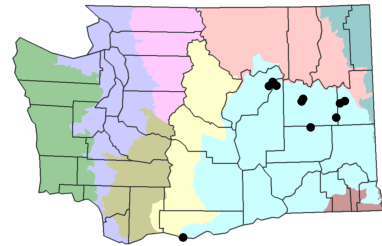
Juncus uncialis Greene

inch-high rush

Juncaceae - rush family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive

rank: G3G4 / S2



General Description: Adapted from Flora of North America (1993+) and Ertter (1986): Yellowish green annual 0.8-3.2 (4) cm tall, tufted, slightly reddish to straw-colored when dry. Leaves all basal, 2.2 cm long, 1/2-3/4 the height of the entire plant.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers solitary, terminal on stems 0.3-2.8 (3.5) cm long. Bract subtending flower solitary, wide, squared off, membranous, completely wrapping around the stem. Flowers 3-parted; tepals erect to curved backward at maturity, greenish or tinged red, 2-4 x 0.6-0.9 mm, nearly equal, margins unpigmented, and central band usually remaining greenish. Stamens 2-3, 1.2-2 (3) mm long. Style 0.1-0.3 mm long, stigmas white, 0.4-1.3 mm long.

Fruits: Capsules generally turning reddish to deep maroon, sometimes remaining greenish, ovoid to cylindrical, 1.8-3.2 x 1-2.5 mm, equal to or shorter than the tepals. Seeds ovoid, 0.3-0.4 mm long, tapering to a small, slender point. Flowers and fruits in June.

Identification Tips: *Juncus uncialis* is one of a small number of annual rushes in the Pacific Northwest. It is distinguishable by its small size; solitary, terminal, 3-parted flowers; and single truncate bract subtending the flowers. *J. bufonius* and *J. kelloggii* often grow with *J. uncialis*. *J. bufonius* is a larger plant with multiple flowers per stem, leaf blades 5-10 cm long, and 6 stamens. *J. kelloggii* has 1-3 flowers per head and 2-5 bracts subtending the inflorescence. *J. hemiendytus* has 2-parted flowers and 1-2 bracts that do not sheath the stem.

Range: WA, OR, NV, and CA.

Habitat/Ecology: Vernal pools and pond edges, often in channeled scablands, or biscuit-swale topography. Associated species include navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala*), Geyer's onion (*Allium geyeri*), Grand Coulee onion (*Allium constrictum*), popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys scouleri*, *P. stipitatus*), and fruitleaf knotweed (*Polygonum polygaloides* ssp. *confertiflorum*). Elevations in WA: 90-760 m (300-2500 ft).

Comments: The primary threat to this species is the degradation of vernal pool habitats through overgrazing or conversion to other uses.

References: Ertter 1986; Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 22.



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