

***Orobanche californica* Cham. & Schltld. ssp.**

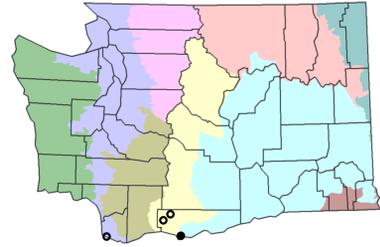
***grayana* (Beck) Heckard**

California broomrape

Orobanchaceae - broomrape family

status: State Endangered

rank: G4T3T4 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Hickman (1993) and Heckard (1973): Parasitic nongreen plant 4-10 cm long, including portion below ground. Stem branched or unbranched, 1-5 cm long, mostly below ground. Stem leaves are reduced to bracts.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence less than 5 cm long, glandular-hairy throughout, dense, branched, with few to many clustered flowers. Inflorescence is pallid, the calyx lobes pale to sometimes purplish, (7) 9-13 (16) mm long. Corolla 20-33 mm long, tubular; lips widely spreading, 10-12 mm long, whitish to yellowish to pale purple with lavender veins. Flowers June to October.

Fruits: Capsules 2-valved with many small seeds.

Identification Tips: *Orobanche californica* ssp. *californica* is 5-20 (27) cm long, has a typically more floriferous, reddish purple inflorescence, with darker upper corolla tubes and lips, and inhabits coastal bluff and strand habitats, parasitizing *Grindelia*. *O. corymbosa* grows in sagebrush habitats of the Columbia Plateau and is parasitic on *Artemisia tridentata*. It has a buff inflorescence, with a rosy tinge to the calyces and the interior of the corolla lobes. It has shorter corolla lips (5-8 mm), and grows up to 17 cm long.

Range: CA, ID, OR, NV, and WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Vernal moist meadows; parasitic on *Aster*, *Erigeron*, and related Asteraceae species. Most common in lower montane meadows but occasionally found at or near sea level. Elevations in WA: near sea level to approximately 450 m (1500 ft). Mostly from 1200 to 1800 m (3900-5900 ft) in CA.

Comments: This taxon is known from 3 historical locations in WA. The type population in camas prairies at Fort Vancouver (David Douglas, 1823) is thought to be extirpated, but suitable habitat persists nearby. Collections by Suksdorf near Glendale, WA, and near Hood River and Salem, OR, are not confirmed to be extant.

References: Heckard 1973; Hickman 1993.

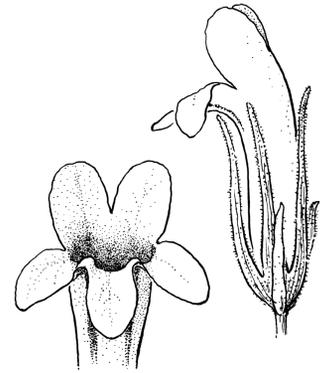


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