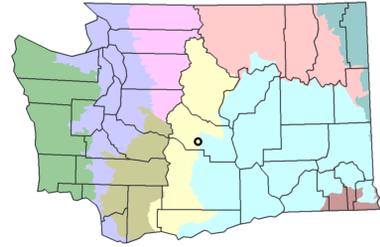


Orthotrichum praemorsum Venturi

orthotrichum moss

Orthotrichaceae

status: State Endangered, Federal Species of Concern,
USFS strategic
rank: G2 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Zander (2009) and Lawton (1971): Plants in loose tufts, dark green to brown. Stems 1-2.5 cm tall, often branched. Leaves erect to overlapping when dry, spreading when moist, ovate-lanceolate, 2.5-4.5 mm long, gradually narrowed to a translucent, slender but unawned tip; margins entire, recurved to near tip. Costa ending in or before the tip. Upper and middle leaf cells 9-13 μ m wide, with 1-3 forked papillae on each surface.

Reproductive Characteristics: Produces budlike male sex organs in the axil of the same branch as the female inflorescence. Seta 0.5-1.1 mm. Capsule half-emergent when dry, barely emergent when moist. Urn ovate-oblong when mature, 1.6-2.4 mm long, strongly 8-ribbed up to 2/3 its length when dry. Stomates superficial. Peristome with 2 rows of teeth. Calyptra with papillose hairs.

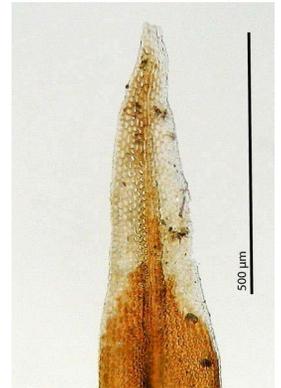
Identification Tips: *O. praemorsum* is distinguished by its strongly ribbed, partially exposed capsules, short seta, and leaves with slender, clear or translucent tips. Unlike *O. praemorsum*, *Orthotrichum affine* is usually on trees (rarely on rock). *Orthotrichum rupestre*, which also grows on rock, is separated from *O. praemorsum* by leaves lacking a clear tip and capsules with single, erect peristome teeth.

Range: A western North American endemic known from single sites in CA, NV, WY, WA, and MT.

Habitat/Ecology: On rock, often in dry areas, at higher elevations.

Comments: This taxon is known from 1 historical site in WA and four other sites in North America. It is not abundant when found and can be difficult to identify in the field.

References: Lawton 1971; Vitt 1973; Zander 2009.



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