

Penstemon barrettiae A. Gray

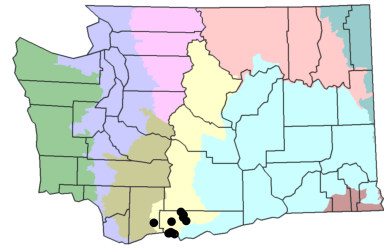
Barrett's beardtongue

Scrophulariaceae - figwort family

status: State Threatened, Federal Species of Concern,

BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G2 / S2



General Description: Medium-sized perennial with hairless, bluish waxy herbage; stems 2-4 dm tall, branched, shrubby at the base. Leaves opposite, evergreen, thick, leathery or succulent, bluish to grayish green, with irregularly-toothed or entire margins; larger leaves up to 8 x 2.5 cm and clustered near the base of the season's growth. Leaves of flowering shoots broad, sessile, and clasping, mostly 1.5-3.5 x 0.8-2 cm.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence a raceme; peduncles axillary, mostly 1-flowered but some of them branched and 2-flowered. Calyx 5-7 mm long, 5-parted, the segments ovate, finely and inconspicuously glandular. Corolla lilac or reddish purple, tubular, strongly 2-lipped, 33-38 mm long, about 1 cm wide at the mouth, hairless outside, long-hairy within at the base of the lower lip. Anthers densely long-woolly. Flowers late April to early June. Flowers are long-lasting and abundant.

Fruits: Capsules narrow, nearly 1 cm long.

Identification Tips: Distinguished by its anthers, which are densely covered with a tangle of woolly hairs, its smooth and hairless herbage, and bluish green to grayish, almost succulent-looking leaves.

Range: Local endemic of the Columbia River Gorge in OR and WA, primarily along the Klickitat River in WA, and in Hood River, Multnomah and Wasco cos. in OR. Occurs in the transition zone between the Columbia Plateau, Eastern Cascades, and Western Cascades ecoregions.

Habitat/Ecology: Grows on rocky substrates of basaltic origin, with little soil development, including crevices in basalt cliffs, ledges of rock outcrops, open talus, and occasionally well-drained roadsides. It occurs mostly at lower elevations, but is found up to 1000 m (3200 ft). Soils are well drained and composed of windblown material and organic matter. Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) are the dominant trees within its range.

Comments: Field binoculars are essential for viewing inaccessible populations. Threats include collection, herbicide use, quarrying, timber harvest, road maintenance activities, changes in hydrology, and some recreational uses.



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