

***Ribes cereum* Douglas var. *colubrinum* C.L. Hitchc.**

synonym: *Ribes cereum* Douglas var. *inebrians* (Lindl.)

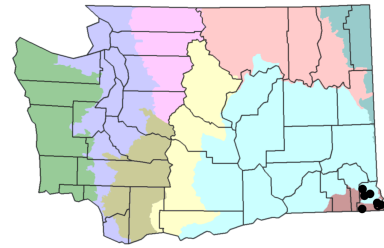
C.L. Hitchc.

squaw currant

Grossulariaceae - currant family

status: State Endangered, BLM sensitive

rank: G5T3 / S1



General Description: Many-branched, spreading to erect thornless shrub 0.5-2.5 m tall; new branches finely hairy and often glandular, turning grayish brown or reddish brown. Leaves alternate, almost hairless, kidney-shaped to fan-shaped, 15-30 mm broad, shallowly 3-5 lobed with close, rounded teeth.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence finely hairy and sticky with short-stalked or subsessile glands. Flowers 2-8 in rounded clusters terminating short lateral branches; peduncles much shorter than the leaves. Bracts subtending the inflorescence are ovate to obovate, usually pointed, entire to toothed or shallowly lobed. Calyx almost hairless. Hypanthium cylindrical, at least twice as long as the sepals, greenish white or pinkish. Sepals 5, triangular-ovate, spreading to recurved, 1.5-3 mm. Petals 5, shorter than the sepals (1-2 mm), white to pinkish or greenish. Anthers with a small, cup-like gland at the tip (use 10X lens). Flowers April to June.

Fruits: Dull to bright red berries, 6-8 mm, ovoid, hairless but sparingly glandular, unpalatable.

Identification Tips: *R. cereum* is thornless, with a red berry, cylindrical hypanthium, and anthers with a small gland at the tip. *R. cereum* var. *pedicellare** leaves are mostly less than 20 mm broad; leaves and calyx are strongly pubescent. *R. cereum* var. *cereum* leaves may be hairless or very hairy, but bracts of the inflorescence are fan-shaped (not ovate) and several-lobed or prominently toothed. Part of the morphological variation within *R. cereum* appears to be phenotypic response to environmental conditions, blurring the varietal distinctions. Variety *colubrinum* intergrades with var. *cereum* and possibly var. *pedicellare*.

Range: Regional endemic confined to the Snake River Canyon and its tributaries; western central ID, Wallowa Co., OR, and Asotin Co., WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Dry, rocky canyon slopes or flats along streams, generally in and around tall shrub communities. Elevations in WA: 300-1000 m (1000-3300 ft). Associated species include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), Woods' rose (*Rosa woodsii*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*).

Comments: Threats include development and herbicide use. This species is also rare in OR.

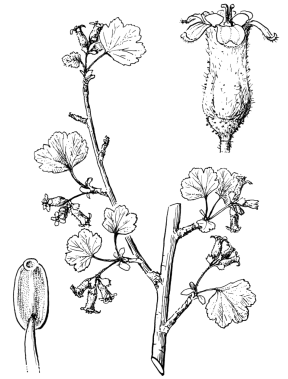


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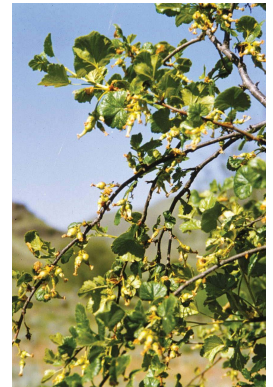


photo by Barb Benner

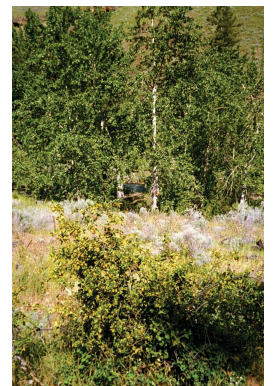


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