

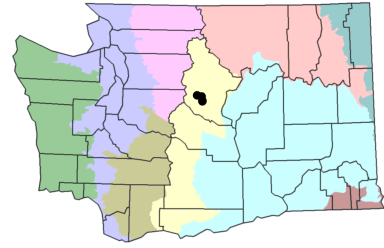
Saxifragopsis fragarioides (Greene) Small

strawberry saxifrage

Saxifragaceae - saxifrage family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G3? / S1



General Description: Adapted from Hickman (1993): Glandular perennial with thick, woody, trailing stems; caudex thick, woody, branched, scaly. Leaves mostly basal; a few stem leaves reduced upwards as sessile, linear bracts. Petioles 1.5-4 cm, expanded at the base, membranous. Blades 1.5-4 cm, obovate, tapered at the base, coarsely toothed at the apex, jointed to the petiole and falling from it.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence a panicle, 10-25 cm, with greater than 40 flowers. Hypanthium partly fused to ovary. Calyx lobes 2-3 mm, spreading to reflexed, elliptic to ovate. Petals 2-3 mm, obovate. Stamens 10. Styles 2, fused at the base when in flower. Flowers June to July.

Fruits: Capsules.

Identification Tips: This taxon is not treated in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). It is the only species of this genus in our range. *Saxifraga* is similar, but *Saxifragopsis* has leaf blades that are jointed to and falling before the petiole. Its styles are generally fused at the base, at least when in flower, whereas *Saxifraga* has styles that are free.

Range: Widely disjunct in WA; known from northern CA and southwestern OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Cracks and crevices on cliffs and rock outcrops; occasionally in talus. Surrounding forests are dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Associated species include oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), snowbrush ceanothus (*Ceanothus velutinus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), field chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*), Tweedy's lewisia (*Lewisia tweedyi*), beardtongue (*Penstemon* spp.), and balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*). Elevations in WA: 400-1300 m (1440-4300 ft). The species is adapted to the harsh environment of cracks in rock outcrops and cliffs.

Comments: The occurrence of this species in WA constitutes a significant disjunction from the rest of its range. Habitats are generally inaccessible but may be affected by rock climbing, road maintenance, and herbicide applications. This species is rare in OR and uncommon in CA.

References: Hickman 1993.