

Scutellaria angustifolia* Pursh ssp. *micrantha

Olmstead

narrowleaf skullcap

Lamiaceae (Mint Family)

Status: State Review Group 1

Rank: G5T3T5S2S3

General Description: Adapted from Olmstead et al. (1990): This perennial plant has leaves, stems, and calyces that are covered with short appressed hairs that are less than 1/16 in. (0.1-0.2 mm) long. The leaves are generally entire, at least on the upper part of the stems. The leaves are 2-3 times longer than they are wide, and the leaf petioles are 1/16 to 1/4 in. (2-4 mm) long. The blue to violet blue flowers are in the leaf axils and the first flowers are 3-6 nodes above the base of the stem. The corolla is 1/2 to 1 in. (12-22 mm) long. The lower lip of the corolla is spreading or slightly reflexed and the upper lip is equal in length to the lower lip. The nutlets are covered with small cylindrical bumps.

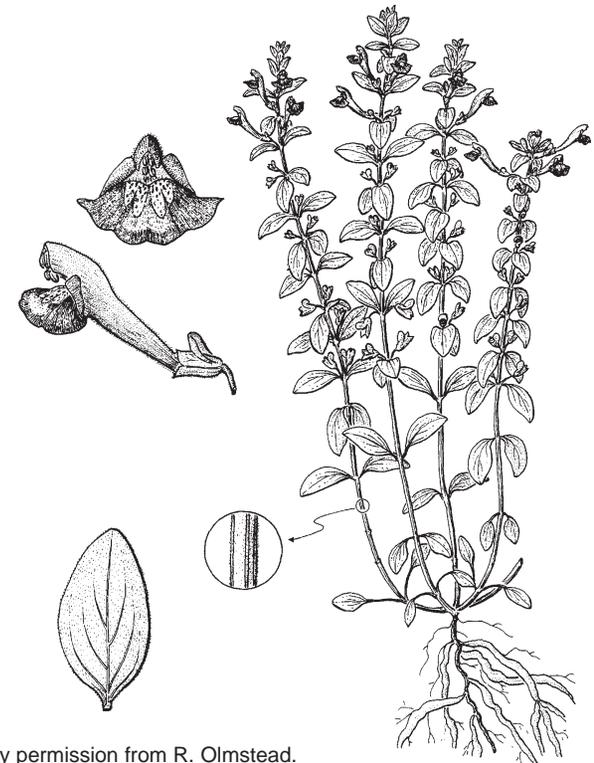
Identification Tips: *Scutellaria angustifolia* ssp. *micrantha* is a small-flowered subspecies of *S. angustifolia*. *S. angustifolia* ssp. *micrantha* is found primarily in grasslands and drier sites, while *S. angustifolia* ssp. *angustifolia* is found in forested habitats. The leaves of *S. angustifolia* ssp. *micrantha* are 2-3 times as long as they are wide, whereas the leaves of *S. angustifolia* ssp. *angustifolia* are 3 to 5 times as long as they are wide. The flowers of *S. angustifolia* ssp. *micrantha* first appear 3-6 nodes above the base of the stem, the pedicels are 1/16 to 1/4 in. (2-4 mm) long, and the corolla is 1/2 to 1 in. (12-22 mm) long. In contrast, *S. angustifolia* ssp. *angustifolia* is generally larger: the flowers appear 6-9 nodes above the stem, the pedicels are 1/8 to 1/2 in. (4-8mm) long, and the corolla is 3/4 to 1 1/2 in. (22-35 mm) long. Both subspecies can be mistaken for *S. antirrhinoides*, but *S. antirrhinoides* is distinguishable by the lack of hairs on the lower lip whereas *S. angustifolia* ssp. *angustifolia* and *S. angustifolia* ssp. *micrantha* have short appressed hairs on the corolla.

Phenology: In Washington this taxon flowers from May to June.

Range: This taxon is found in Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah. In Washington it has been found in Pend Oreille, Ferry, Okanogan, and Stevens counties, considerably disjunct from its primary range.

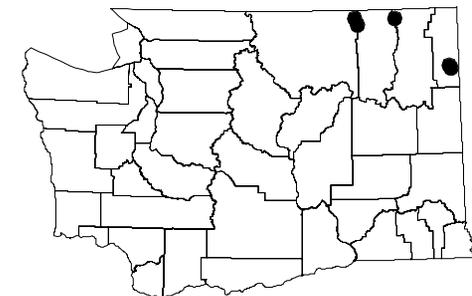
Scutellaria angustifolia* ssp. *micrantha

narrowleaf skullcap



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Illustration by Linda Vorobik

Known distribution
of *Scutellaria angustifolia*
ssp. *micrantha*
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

Scutellaria angustifolia* ssp. *micrantha

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Richard Olmstead

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Habitat: In Washington, this taxon is found in dry, rocky soil at elevations of 2560 to 5700 feet (780-1737m). Associated species include Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), arrow-leaf balsam-root (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), fescue sandwort (*Arenaria capillaris*), large-flower collomia (*Collomia grandiflora*), choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*), and pinegrass (*Calamagrostis rubescens*).

Ecology: This taxon typically occurs on barren talus slopes and sagebrush grasslands, and is sometimes found in ponderosa pine woodlands.

State Status Comments: This taxon is known from less than 10 occurrences in Washington, and not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time.

Inventory Needs: Grasslands and talus slopes in Pend Oreille, Ferry, Okanogan, and Stevens counties should be surveyed for additional populations. Known occurrences should be revisited.

Threats and Management Concerns: Primary threats to this taxon and its habitat are timber harvest activities, herbicides, road construction, and recreation.

Comments: *Scutellaria angustifolia* is in Hitchcock *et al.* (1969), but the subspecies were more recently defined (Olmstead 1990).

References:

Olmstead, R. G. 1990. Systematics of the *Scutellaria angustifolia* complex (Labiatae). Contributions from the University of Michigan Herbarium. Vol. 17, pg. 223-265.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 510 pp.