

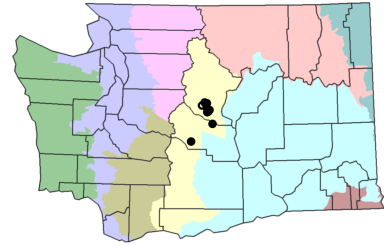
***Sidalcea oregana*** (Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray) A. Gray  
**var. *calva*** C.L. Hitchcock

Wenatchee Mountain checker-mallow

Malvaceae - mallow family

status: State Endangered, Federal Listed Endangered

rank: G5T1 / S1



**General Description:** Perennial from a stout taproot, branched at the crown; stems several, 2-15 dm tall, hairless at base or sparsely hairy with large, 4-rayed, appressed hairs. Leaves nearly or completely hairless on both surfaces, thick and fleshy, on long petioles; basal leaves shallowly lobed; upper leaves deeply divided and coarsely toothed.

**Floral Characteristics:** Racemes 1 to several, loosely flowered. Petals light to deep pink. Calyx often less than 6 mm long, the lobes nearly hairless on the back, but strongly ciliate on the margins with simple to star-shaped hairs 0.5-1 mm long. Stigmas extending the full length of the inner style branches. Flowers mid-June to late July, or sometimes later.

**Fruits:** Carpels 2.5-3 mm long, sides net-veined to wrinkled.

**Identification Tips:** *Sidalcea oregana* var. *procera* is similar, but has spreading (not appressed) hairs near the base of the stems; a calyx usually much greater than 6 mm long, lacking pronounced cilia on the margins; and leaves that feel sandpapery below, with star-shaped hairs at least dorsally. *Iliamna rivularis* and *I. longisepala* can be distinguished by their terminal capitate stigmas and carpels with smooth sides and long, stiff, prominent hairs on the back.

**Range:** Endemic to WA. Historically from an area of approximately 5 x 18 km (3 x 11 mi.), extending south-southeasterly from Leavenworth, WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Moist meadows with surface water or saturated soil into early summer. Also in somewhat open coniferous stands with Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and/or ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and along edges of shrub and hardwood thickets. Associated species include quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*). Many *S. oregana* var. *calva* populations are found in association with Wenatchee larkspur (*Delphinium viridescens*), also a rare species. Elevations: 580-1000 m (1900-3200 ft). Historically, fire played a role in maintaining habitat for the taxon.

**Comments:** Agricultural and residential development has resulted in significant habitat loss.

**References:** Hitchcock 1957; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2004.



&div>Illustration by Dinea Norell, Washington Natural Heritage Program&div>

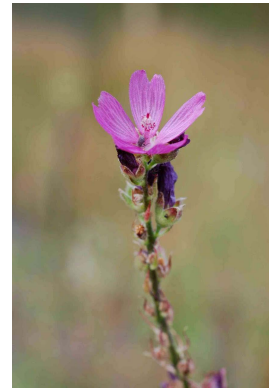


photo by Joe Arnett



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