

Synthyris pinnatifida* S. Watson var. *lanuginosa

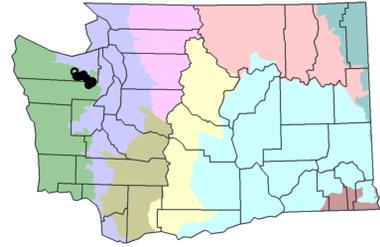
(Piper) Cronquist

cut-leaf synthyris

Scrophulariaceae - figwort family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4T2 / S2



General Description: Perennial 5-20 (25) cm tall, from a short rhizome; herbage white to silvery green from fine, soft, downy hairs throughout, except for the almost smooth sepals. Basal leaves well developed, 3.8 cm long and almost half as wide, pinnately dissected, petioles at least as long as the blades. Stem leaves bractlike, alternate, and mostly entire.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence a densely clustered terminal raceme, usually taller than the foliage. Calyx with 4 distinct sepals. Corolla usually blue (occasionally whitish, pink, or lavender), 4-7 mm long, fused to form a tube, with 4 lobes almost equal to the tube. Stamens 2. Flowers March to August (but primarily May to June).

Fruits: Capsules finely white-hairy, 4-8 mm, nearly as wide as high, widely rounded, not notched; seeds flat, thin-margined.

Identification Tips: Other varieties of *Synthyris pinnatifida* are not known from WA. *S. pinnatifida* is easily distinguished by its pinnately dissected leaves that are longer than wide; other WA species of *Synthyris* have toothed or shallowly lobed leaves.

Range: Endemic to the Olympic Peninsula, WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Dry rocky places; usually in a typical cushion plant community of densely packed vegetation that produces a flat looking surface. Elevations range from 1400 to 2100 m (4640-6900 ft). Associated species include cushion buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium*), spreading phlox (*Phlox diffusa*), Roemer's fescue (*Festuca roemerii*) and other grasses, cut-leaf daisy (*Erigeron compositus*), alpine smelowskia (*Smelowskia calycina*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa* ssp. *floribunda**), locoweed (*Oxytropis campestris*), Pacific lupine (*Lupinus lepidus*), and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

Comments: Documented sites should be revisited and their status assessed. Threats include disturbance from hikers, deer, and goats.

References: Pennell 1933.



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