

***Thelypodium howellii* S. Watson. ssp. *howellii* Bien.**

Howell's thelypody  
Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)

**Status:** State Review Group 1

**Rank:** G2T2SNR

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1964) and Hickman (1993): *Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *howellii* is a waxy, biennial or annual 4 to 35 in. (1-9 dm) tall that is generally branched above the middle. The plant may be completely hairless, or have short, stiff hairs at the base. The basal leaves form somewhat of a rosette and are oblanceolate, short-petiolate, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 4 in. (2-10 cm) long. The basal leaves are few-lobed (sometimes unlobed or toothed), and the terminal lobe is large and rounded while the lower lobes are smaller and lyre-shaped. The stem leaves are sessile, hairless, waxy,  $\frac{3}{8}$  to 4 in. (1-10 cm) long, linear to lanceolate, and have earlike lobes at the base that are somewhat clasping. The inflorescence (flower cluster) is elongated and open. The stout, straight, or somewhat curved flower pedicels are  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. (2-5 mm) long. The flowers are lavender to purple with a greenish base. The flower petals are oblanceolate (rarely spoon-shaped in this subspecies),  $\frac{5}{16}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. (8-20 mm) long, and 0.5-1.2 mm wide, and somewhat crinkled at the base. The dry, 2-valved fruits are straight, ascending,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. (2-4 cm) long, 1 mm wide, and have minute, regular constrictions down the length of the fruit. The seeds are plump.

**Identification Tips:** Other species of *Thelypodium* that occur in Washington are *T. integrifolium*, *T. lacinatum*, *T. milliflorum*, and *T. sagittatum*. Unlike these species, *T. howellii* ssp. *howellii* has a rosette-like base, and its inflorescence is always elongated, even in bud.

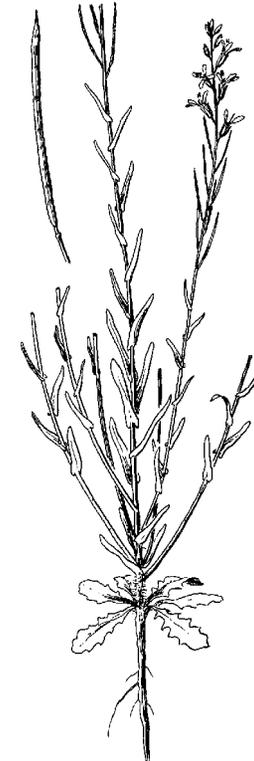
**Phenology:** *Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *howellii* flowers from May through July in Washington.

**Range:** This taxon is known from central Washington through northeastern California. In Washington it has been found in Yakima County.

**Habitat:** *Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *howellii* is found in open wet to dry meadows and flats, pastures, moist alkaline soils, near tule swamps, sandy banks, river valleys, and at the margins of ponds and lakes. It is known from an elevation of 4,000 to 5,100 feet (1200-1550 m) in Oregon. Elevations in Washington are unknown.

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Howell's thelypody



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Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish

Known distribution of  
*Thelypodium howellii*  
ssp. *howellii*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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**Ecology:** The open, wet habitats of this taxon tend to be heavily grazed in eastern Washington.

**State Status Comments:** Because this taxon was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time. There are no recent occurrences.

**Inventory Needs:** Alkaline and wetland habitats along the eastern base of the Cascades should be investigated.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Grazing by livestock may be a threat to this taxon.

**Comments:** This taxon is also known as *Streptanthus howellii* S. Wats.

**References:**

Hickman, J.C. 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. University of California

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 597 pp.

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