

***Abronia umbellata* Lam. var. *acutalata* (Standl.)**

C.L. Hitch.

synonym: *Abronia umbellata* Lam. ssp. *breviflora* (Standl.)

Munz

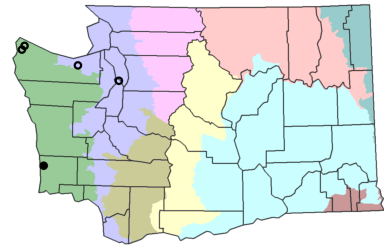
pink sand-verbena

Nyctaginaceae - four o'clock family

status: State Endangered, Federal Species of Concern,

BLM strategic

rank: G4G5T2 / S1



**General Description:** Sprawling annual up to 1 m long, with few to several densely glandular, short-hairy branches. Leaves opposite. Petioles 1-4 cm; blades egg-shaped, 2-5 x 0.8-3 cm, thin but fleshy, minutely glandular, with fine short hairs, or sometimes hairless.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence an umbel on a slender, leafless stalk 2.5-4.5 cm long, covered with glands and fine short hairs, generally erect in fruit. Involucral bracts 4-5, narrowly lanceolate, 5-6 mm long, subtending 8-20 reddish purple flowers. Flower tube a fused calyx, greenish, 6.5-10 mm, with glands and short hairs. Reddish purple limbs usually 5, flaring, 6-8 mm in diameter. Corollas lacking. WA plants flower July to September.

**Fruits:** Achenes with thin wings as broad or broader than the achene body and sometimes prolonged above it.

**Identification Tips:** The only variety of *A. umbellata* in WA. The flower tubes of var. *acutalata* are 12-15 mm long, and wings of the fruits are usually not prolonged above the achene body. *A. latifolia* occurs in the same habitats but has yellow flowers, and fruits with thick wings narrower than the achene body.

**Range:** OR to central CA coast; recently rediscovered in Vancouver Island, B.C., and WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Sandy areas and beaches along the coast. Associated with American dunegrass (*Leymus mollis*) and coastal sand verbena (*Abronia latifolia*). The extant WA site is in a level open sandy area, associated with American beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), European beachgrass (*A. arenaria*), and American dunegrass. This taxon is adapted to the disturbance common in habitats with shifting sand. Plants are almost always annual but can become perennial in protected habitats.

**Comments:** Known from 4 historical sites in WA. In 1985, extensive unsuccessful surveys were conducted in Island, Clallam, Pacific, and Jefferson counties. In 2006, it was rediscovered in Pacific County. It is also rare in OR, B.C., and CA.

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 4; Kaye et al. 2003; Tillett 1967.



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