

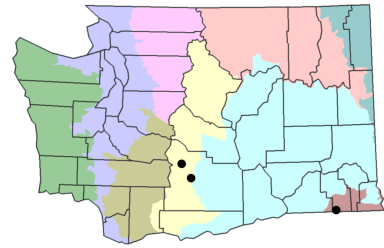
Allium campanulatum S. Watson

Sierra onion

Liliaceae - lily family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Bulb-bearing perennial 0.5-3 dm tall. Bulb ovoid, producing either a cluster of short-stalked basal bulblets or filiform rhizomes up to 10 cm long that terminate with small bulblets. Outer bulb coat brown to gray, membranous, enclosing 1 or more bulbs. Leaves usually 2 (sometimes more), 8-40 cm x 1-5 mm, about equaling the flowering stalk in length, persistent, withering from tip when flowering.

Floral Characteristics: Flowering stalk 5-30 cm tall (but usually less than 15 cm), circular in cross section, persistent, usually solitary, sometimes with 2-3 stalks from a single bulb. Bracts 2 (3), distinct, ovate to lanceolate, pointed at the tip, with 3-5 nerves. Umbel persistent, with few to many flowers. Tepals 6, 4-10 mm long, ovate to narrowly lanceolate, tips pointed, margins entire, purplish, commonly with a darker purple crescent at the inner base, rarely white, in fruit becoming rigid, somewhat shiny, the tips strongly rolled inward, with a pronounced keel. Ovary with 6 conspicuous, triangular, flattened crests with minutely toothed margins. Stigma capitate. Flowers June to July.

Fruits: Seeds black, shiny, pitted, each cell with a minute central papilla.

Identification Tips: *A. campanulatum* closely resembles *A. bisceptrum*. However, the leaves of *A. bisceptrum* are usually green at anthesis, and in fruit the tepals are usually thin and papery (not rigid and shiny), not strongly keeled, and the tips are not rolled inward.

Range: CA, NV, UT, WA, and the O choco, Strawberry, and Steens Mts. of OR.

Habitat/Ecology: Rocky, thin, or sandy soils of open slopes, dry meadows, and dry drainage channels. Elevations in WA: 900-1850 m (3000-6080 ft). Associated species include subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.), needlegrass (*Achnatherum* spp.), tarweed (*Madia glomerata*), and willowherb (*Epilobium* spp.).

Comments: Threats include off-road vehicles, campers, conifer encroachment, livestock grazing, and road-widening activities. This plant is also rare in OR and UT.

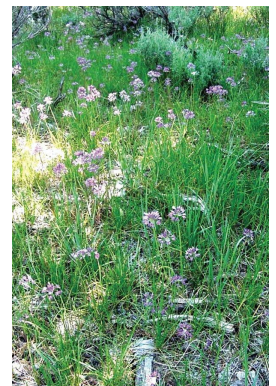
References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 26.



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