## Bolandra oregana S. Watson

Oregon bolandra

Saxifragaceae - saxifrage family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive rank: G3 / S2

**General Description:** Fragile, weakly glandular-hairy, herbaceous perennial from a short horizontal rootststock with many bulblets. Stems usually single but can be several, usually branched above, (1.5) 2-4 (6) dm tall. Basal and lower stem leaves with slender petioles up to 15 cm long; blades kidney-shaped, palmately veined, (2) 3-7 cm broad, shallowly lobed with sharply toothed segments. Upper stem leaves reduced, with shorter petioles. Toothed stipules small on lower leaves, but large, conspicuous and leaflike on upper leaves.

**Floral Characteristics:** Panicle branches (1) 2-7, spreading; flowers few to several. Calyx becoming larger with age, 14-18 mm long, bell-shaped with 5 purplish, linear-lanceolate lobes. Petals 5, linear, reddish purple, about equal in size to the calyx lobes. Stamens 5, alternating with the petals; filaments purple. Flowers May through early June.

**Fruits:** Capsules about 1 cm long, with 2 segments fused about 1/4 of their length.

**Identification Tips:** Readily identified when the peculiar reddish or purplish brown flowers are present. Vegetatively, it resembles other members of this family, particularly *Sullivantia oregana*. *B. oregana* differs in having distinctive leaflike stipules and bulblets along the rootstocks rather than slender stolons.

**Range:** Lower Columbia River Gorge and Snake River Valley of northeastern OR, adjacent ID, and WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Low-elevation sites along the Columbia River drainage; usually near streams or on cliffs near waterfalls in moist, wooded, rocky places in deep shade. Associated species include red alder (Alnus rubra), shooting star (Dodecatheon dentatum), western saxifrage (Saxifraga occidentalis), stream bank springbeauty (Montia parviflora), monkeyflower (Mimulus guttatus), bladder-fern (Cystopteris fragilis), clasping arnica (Arnica amplexicaulis), and mosses. However, it has also been found in open, rocky areas and on steep grassy, semiopen slopes. One of the WA populations occurs on basalt scabland, on south-facing slopes in vernally damp areas. Elevations in WA: 20-1200 m (60-3900 ft).

**Comments:** This species is limited to 2 areas: the Columbia River Gorge and the Snake River Valley. Threats include disturbance from timber harvest, clearing of riparian areas, and application of herbicides. It is also rare in OR.





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