

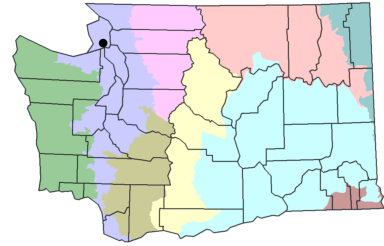
Castilleja victoriae Fairbarns & J.M. Egger

Victoria's paintbrush

Orobanchaceae - broomrape family

status: State Endangered, BLM strategic

rank: G1 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Fairbarns & Egger (2007): Hairy annual 2-20 cm tall. Stems usually solitary (sometimes with 2-4 or more branches), upright, reddish brown, hairy. Leaves alternate, 0.5-2.7 cm long, dull reddish purple to reddish brown throughout, bearing short gland-tipped hairs and longer, soft, straight hairs. Lower leaves entire, often withering when in flower. Upper leaves divided into 3-7 lanceolate lobes, grading into floral bracts.

Floral Characteristics: Spikes densely flowered, 1-15 cm long. Bracts similar to upper leaves, overlapping. Calyx 8-12 mm long, bearing both glandular and glandless hairs, deeply cleft into 4 linear-lanceolate lobes. Corolla 10-18 mm long, tubular, 2-lipped, bicolored, with both glandular and glandless hairs. Lower lip lemon yellow, unspotted, saccate. Upper lip white, with a beaklike tip enclosing the anthers. Flowers May to June.

Fruits: Capsules ovate with a pointed tip, 5-6 x 3-4 mm; seeds 0.9-1.3 mm long, coats straw-colored, loose-fitting, reticulate. Seeds mature late June to July and disperse through autumn.

Identification Tips: *C. victoriae* is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). Distinguishing features are the uniform reddish brown color of the bracts; bicolored, unspotted corollas; and ovate to lanceolate leaves with lanceolate lobes. *C. ambigua*, a salt marsh species, has lower corolla lips with small reddish purple spots, and greenish floral bracts with pale tips. *C. attenuata*, also found in the San Juan Islands, has floral bracts strongly differentiated from leaves, usually greenish with lobe tips strongly contrasting in color, white to occasionally yellow or pale pink.

Range: Southeastern Vancouver Island, B.C., and San Juan Co., WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Coastal freshwater seeps and vernal pools on thin soil over bedrock. Sites are at 1 to 5 m (3-16 ft) elevation and within 50 m (165 ft) of the sea. Associates include silver hairgrass (*Aira caryophylla*), thrift seapink (*Armeria maritima*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), miner's-lettuce (*Montia fontana*), and clover (*Trifolium depauperatum*).

Comments: This taxon is known from 4 extant sites globally; only one small population is known from WA. Threats include herbivory, habitat loss, invasive weeds, and potential sea level changes.

References: Fairbarns & Egger 2007.



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