

Cusickiella douglasii (A. Gray) Rollins

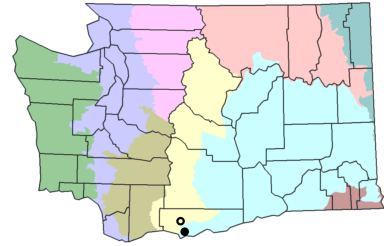
synonym: *Draba douglasii* Gray

Douglas' draba

Brassicaceae - mustard family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4G5 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Rollins (1993): Scapose, tufted perennial from a long taproot and caudex branching underground; herbage with simple and forked hairs. Leaves lacking petioles, erect, thick and leathery, 5-12 x 1-2 mm, oblanceolate, midrib very prominent, lower surface ciliate and often with a few hairs, margins smooth.

Floral Characteristics: Scapes to 5 cm tall, hairy or hairless. Racemes nearly sessile, 2-20 flowered. Petals white, 4-5 mm long. Fruiting pedicels soft-hairy or hairless, lower ones bractless. Flowers April to June.

Fruits: Silicles somewhat inflated, nearly orbicular, walls thick and leathery, (3) 5 (7) mm long, with soft, unbranched hairs, or hairless. Style 0.5-1.5 mm long, slender. Seeds 1-2, brown, plump, about 2 mm long.

Identification Tips: *C. douglasii* is the only member of its genus in WA. It may be confused with *Draba densifolia*, which has yellow flowers and silicles with more than 2 seeds.

Range: Northwestern UT to southern CA, north to WA and ID.

Habitat/Ecology: Windswept rocky ridges, granitic rock screes, loose volcanic hillsides, red barren hills, rocky flats and serpentine ridges. In WA the taxon occurs on open rocky ridges on thin sandy to gravelly soil over basalt. Associated species include Douglas's buckwheat (*Eriogonum douglasii*), Hood's phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), showy phlox (*Phlox speciosa*), lupine (*Lupinus* spp.), and biscuitroot (*Lomatium* spp.). Elevations in WA: 790-860 m (2600-2800 ft). *Cusickiella douglasii* grows in a wide variety of habitats throughout its range, at elevations up to 2450 m (8000 ft).

Comments: Grazing and off-road vehicle use are potential threats. This species is also rare in UT.

References: Rollins 1993.

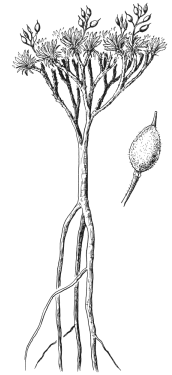


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