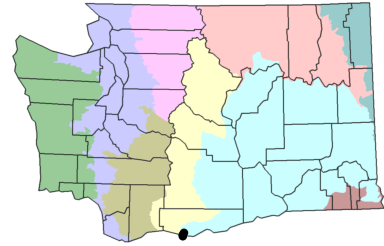


Damasonium californicum Torr. ex Benth.

synonym: *Machaerocarpus californicus* (Torr.) Small fringed water-plantain

Alismataceae - water-plantain family

status: State Endangered, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive
rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Semiaquatic perennial herb; commonly 2-4 dm, but may be up to 6 dm tall. Leaves erect to floating, with long petioles; blades linear to oblong-lanceolate, rounded to subcuneate at the base, 3-8 cm.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence a simple umbel or panicle of 2-4 whorls on a leafless stalk; pedicels spreading to recurved, 2-8 cm. Flowers showy; petals 3, white to pink, fringed, 7-10 mm. Sepals 3, greenish, 4-5 mm.

Fruits: A flattened achene, strongly ribbed on each margin, depressed in the middle, long-beaked (4 mm, about equal to achene). Identifiable June to July.

Identification Tips: Distinguished from *Alisma* spp. by its fringed petals. *Sagittaria* spp. are similar, but have arrowhead-shaped leaf blades with distinct basal lobes, while *D. californicum* has linear to oblong-lanceolate leaves without basal lobes. The long achene beak is also distinctive.

Range: Southern OR to central CA, east to southwest ID and western NV. Peripheral in WA; known from 1 site near the Columbia River.

Habitat/Ecology: Damp ground, in and near water of shallow ponds, vernal pools, intermittent streams, sloughs, and mud flats at low elevations. The WA population occurs in ponds on basalt scabland, where associates are European water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), white water crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*), and calicoflower (*Downingia* spp.).

Comments: The single WA population has over 1000 plants. This species' habitat is subject to frequent use; current threats include hydrologic alteration and cattle grazing. It is also rare in ID.

References: Hickman 1993.



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