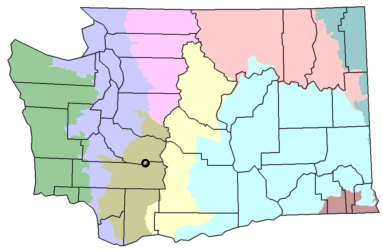
Encalypta brevicollis (B.S.G.) Ångström

synonym: *Encalypta brevicolla* (Bruch & Schimp.) Ångström var. *crumiana* (D.G. Horton) H.A. Crum & L.E. Anderson

candle-snuffer moss

Encalyptaceae

status: State Endangered, USFS strategic - rank: G4T1 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Flora of North America (1993+): Erect moss with stems 20-25 mm long. Leaves light green at the shoot tips, dark green to blackish below, contorted when dry, oblong to narrowly spatula-shaped, 2-6 mm long; costa prominent, excurrent, awns up to 2 mm long. Middle and upper leaf cells 15-20 µm; basal cells rectangular, 20-90 µm, smooth; basal marginal cells differentiated, longer than interior leaf cells, in 8-12 rows.

Reproductive Characteristics: Seta 5-16 mm long, dark red. Capsule exserted, long-cylindric, 1.5-3.5 mm, smooth. Peristome whitish, with 2 distinct sets of teeth; teeth irregular, 0.5 mm, narrowly lanceolate, papillose or smooth, erect when wet or dry. Operculum 2 mm. Calyptra 4-8 mm long, lacerate below, papillose above.

Identification Tips: The genus *Encalypta* has large, persistent, straw-colored calyptrae completely covering the capsules. *Encalypta ciliata* leaves have awns short or lacking, and a yellowish red to translucent peristome with 1 set of teeth. *E. affinis* leaves have awns short or lacking, and a yellowish brown peristome with 2 sets of teeth. *E. brevipes* is generally smaller (stems 10-14 mm long), lacks a peristome, and has short setae (1-3 mm). *E. longicollis* has a distinctly red peristome.

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Range: AK, disjunct to southern OR, east to Quebec; also in Greenland, Europe, and Asia.

Habitat/Ecology: On soil in shaded crevices, shelves, and overhanging ledges of rock outcrops. Microsites are moist but within otherwise dry, exposed, windswept montane or alpine sites. One site in OR is a ridgetop subject to frequent fog penetration. Associated species include lace lipfern (*Cheilanthes gracillima*), Wallace's spikemoss (*Selaginella wallacei*), stonecrop (*Sedum* spp.), mosses, and lichens.

Comments: The solitary occurrence for this taxon in WA was last observed in 1931; attempts to relocate it have been unsuccessful.

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References: Christy & Wagner 1996; Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 27; Horton 1983; USDA Forest Service & USDI Bureau of Land Management 1996c.