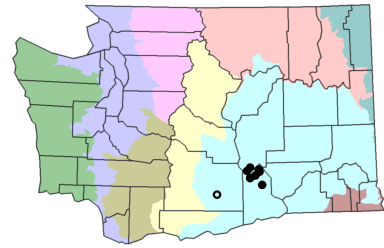


Eremothera minor (A. Nelson) W.L. Wagner & Hoch
synonym: *Camissonia minor* (A. Nelson) P.H. Raven,
Oenothera minor (A. Nelson) Munz
small-flower evening-primrose
Onagraceae - evening primrose family
status: State Sensitive, BLM strategic
rank: G4 / S2



General Description: Hairy annual, glandular in the inflorescence, 3-30 cm tall; main stem usually branched at the base but unbranched above. Leaves alternate; basal leaves with long petioles and oblong-lanceolate to oblanceolate blades, 1-3 (5) cm x 4-15 mm, becoming reduced above into linear, sessile bracts.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers sessile, occurring from near the base of the plant to the top, opening at dusk. Hypanthium free, 0.5-2 mm long. Petals 4, 0.8-1.3 mm long, obovate, pale yellowish or off-white, aging to pink or reddish. Sepals 4, 1-2 mm long. Stigma globose; style 1.2-3.2 mm long, hairy near the base. Stamens 8. Flowers and fruits early May through early June.

Fruits: Capsules 12-25 mm long, linear, scarcely enlarged at the base, usually very conspicuously contorted to coiled.

Identification Tips: Within its range in WA, *Eremothera minor* may be confused with *Camissonia contorta** and *E. pygmaea*.* The petals of *C. contorta* are longer (2.5-4 mm) and yellow, and its capsules are longer (20-40 mm) and conspicuously arched to coiled. *E. pygmaea* has petals 1.5-2.5 mm long that are white aging to pinkish, and shorter capsules (8-15 mm long) that are wider at the base and less contorted than the capsules of *E. minor*. Additionally, *E. pygmaea* inflorescences are nodding when flowering.

Range: Western U.S., from WA south to CA and east to MT, WY, and CO.

Habitat/Ecology: Gravelly basalt slopes, sandy and alkaline soils, and dry rocky hillsides; often with considerable cover of bare soil. Elevations in WA: 140-350 m (460-1140 ft). Associated species include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and Sandberg's bluegrass (*Poa secunda*). As with most annual species, populations are likely to vary from year to year, according to weather conditions.

Comments: This taxon is also rare in CA, MT, and WY.

References: Hickman 1993; Raven 1969.

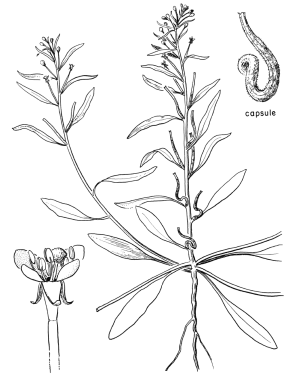
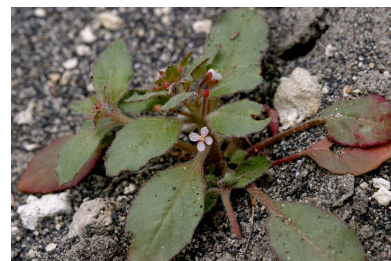


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