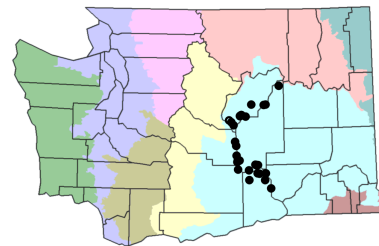


Eremothera pygmaea (Douglas) W.L. Wagner & Hoch

synonym: *Camissonia pygmaea* (Douglas ex Lehm.) P.H. Raven, *Oenothera pygmaea* Douglas, *Oenothera boothii* Douglas ex Lehm. var. *pygmaea* (Douglas) Torr. & A. Gray
dwarf evening-primrose

Onagraceae - evening primrose family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive -
rank: G3 / S3



General Description: Erect, glandular-hairy annual, 1-3.5 dm tall, usually not flowering near the base. Leaves alternate, narrowly elliptic to narrowly ovate; basal leaves largest, (1) 2-6 (8) cm long, often withered when flowering, sparsely toothed, with petioles nearly as long as the blades. Upper leaves nearly sessile, reduced, linear-lanceolate.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescences nodding when flowering; flowers sessile in spikes, opening near sunset. Free hypanthium 1.7-2.2 (4) mm long, 0.8-1 (1.5) mm across at the summit. Sepals 4, 1.8-2 mm long. Petals 4, white aging to pinkish, 1.5-2.5 mm long. Stamens 8; filaments attached to sepals 1-2.2 mm long, those attached to petals slightly shorter. Style 3.2-4 mm long; stigma globose, surrounded by the anthers when flowering.

Fruits: Capsules sessile, slightly curved, linear-fusiform, 8-15 mm long, thickened near the base. Seeds of 2 types, the basal ones darker, with minute papillae. Identifiable June to August.

Identification Tips: *E. minor* is similar but flowers from near the base, has erect inflorescences, longer capsules (12-25 mm long), and overall smaller flowers (petals 0.8-1.3 mm long, style 1.2-3.2 mm long). *E. boothii** has larger flowers and stigmas held well above the stamens when flowering.

Range: Regional endemic of eastern WA, OR, and ID.

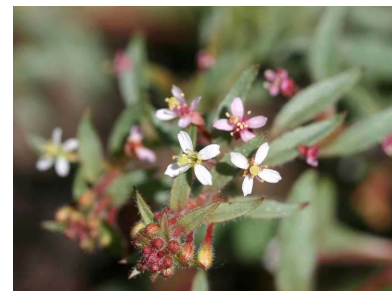
Habitat/Ecology: Sagebrush steppe, on unstable soil or gravel in steep talus, dry washes, banks, and roadcuts. Associated species include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum spp.*), small-flowered gilia (*Gilia minutiflora*), blazingstar (*Mentzelia spp.*), cryptantha (*Cryptantha spp.*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), and obscure evening primrose (*Neoholmgrenia andina*). Elevations in WA: 140-625 m (450-2050 ft). Because of the unstable habitat and the taxon's annual habit, the number, size, and location of populations varies from year to year.

Comments: Threats include gravel extraction, road construction, herbicide drift, off-road vehicle use, and off-site irrigation. This taxon is also rare in OR.

References: Raven 1964, Raven 1969.



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