

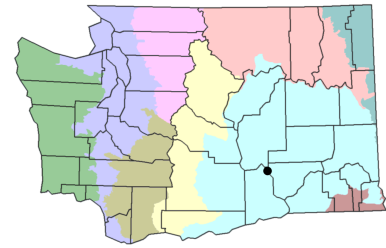
***Physaria douglasii*** (S. Watson) O'Kane & Al-Shehbaz  
***ssp. tuplashensis*** (Rollins, K.A. Beck & Caplow) O'Kane & Al-Shehbaz

synonym: *Lesquerella tuplashensis* Rollins, K.A. Beck & Caplow

White Bluffs bladderpod

Brassicaceae - mustard family

status: State Threatened, Federal Proposed Threatened,  
BLM sensitive - rank: G4?T2 / S2



**General Description:** Adapted from Rollins *et al.* (1995): A perennial, grayish-hairy herb with an undivided caudex, a well-developed taproot, and a dense, many-leaved rosette. Stems numerous, slightly decumbent to erect, densely hairy, 1-2 (3.5) dm tall. Basal leaves rosette-forming, densely hairy, silvery, (1.5) 2-4 (6) cm long, rounded to broadly obtuse at the tip, (0.5) 1-1.5 (2.5) cm wide. Stem leaves numerous, broad, 1-5 mm wide at anthesis.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence dense, 3-6 cm long, on numerous stems. Sepals ascending to erect, narrowly oblong, densely hairy on the exterior, 3-4 mm long. Petals yellow, narrowly oblanceolate to spatula-shaped, 4.5-5 mm long. Fruiting pedicels densely hairy, 9-11 (13) mm long. Flowers late June to July.

**Fruits:** Siliques slightly obovoid to nearly spherical, 3-4.5 mm long, densely hairy on the exterior, with hairs raised on stipelike stalks.

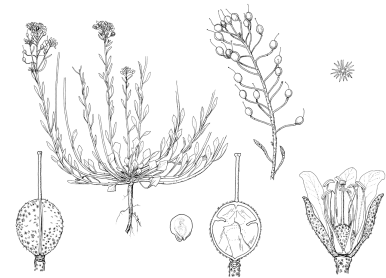
**Identification Tips:** This species is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). Subspecies *tuplashensis* is similar to *ssp. douglasii*; the most distinctive difference is the stalked hairs of *ssp. tuplashensis* versus the sessile, appressed hairs of *ssp. douglasii*. Additionally, *ssp. tuplashensis* has a dense rosettes of broad, often spatula-shaped basal leaves, and short flowering stems that are densely covered with relatively broad leaves. It blooms during the summer months, well after *ssp. douglasii* has become dormant.

**Range:** Narrow endemic, restricted to a small area adjacent to the Columbia River.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Restricted to dry, barren, nearly vertical exposures of caliche soil in sagebrush steppe habitat. The substrate is extremely alkaline and highly calcareous. Average annual precipitation is 150 mm (6 in.) and vegetation is sparse. Associated species include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), buckwheat milk-vetch (*Astragalus caricinus*), slender buckwheat (*Eriogonum microthecum*), and Snake River cryptantha (*Cryptantha spiculifera*). Elevations: 150-290 m (500-950 ft).

**Comments:** This recently described taxon is known from 1 population, which is currently threatened by slope failures due to irrigation of adjacent lands. It is also vulnerable to off-road vehicle use.

**References:** Al-Shehbaz & O'Kane 2002; Rollins et al. 1995.



drawing by Dolly Baker; ©1995  
Rhodora



photo by Joe Arnett



photo by Joe Arnett