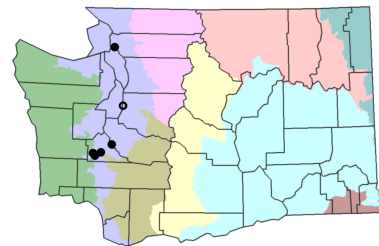


Nuttallanthus texanus (Scheele) D.A. Sutton
synonym: *Linaria canadensis* (L.) Dum. Cours. var. *texana*
(Scheele) Pennell
Texas toadflax
Scrophulariaceae - figwort family
status: State Sensitive, BLM strategic
rank: G4G5 / S1



General Description: Slender annual or winter annual from a short taproot; 10-50 cm tall, essentially hairless throughout, somewhat whitish waxy, with both erect stems and a basal rosette of prostrate stems. Leaves in basal rosette short, with ascending tips, mostly opposite or in 3s, shorter and relatively broader than those of the erect stems. Main stems 1 to several, erect, unbranched, with sparse, linear, alternate leaves 1-3.5 cm x 1-2.5 mm.

Floral Characteristics: Calyx of 5 essentially distinct sepals. Corolla blue, 2-lipped, 10-12 mm long, not including the 5-9 mm spur, with a pale, scarcely raised palate. Flowers April to June.

Fruits: Capsules ellipsoid to spherical, 2.5-4 mm high; seeds angled and densely covered with tubercles.

Identification Tips: *Nuttallanthus canadensis** is from eastern N.A. and not native to WA, but it may be found in the Puget Lowlands. Its flowers are less than 8-10 mm long, with a 2-6 mm spur, and its seeds are nearly smooth. In contrast, the seeds of *N. texana* are densely covered with tubercles.

Range: B.C. to Sask., east to IL and VA, south to CA, AZ, TX, and FL.

Habitat/Ecology: Glacial outwash prairies with extremely well drained soils that contain very little organic matter. Elevations in WA: 5-60 m (16-200 ft). Associated species include red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), silver hairgrass (*Aira caryophyllea*), hairy cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), harvest brodiaea (*Brodiaea coronaria*), upland larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallii*), slender cinquefoil (*Potentilla gracilis*), and violets (*Viola* spp.).

Comments: This taxon is also rare in B.C., MT, WY, and NE. In WA it is known from a small number of extant occurrences, each with very small populations. South Puget Sound prairies and grasslands of the San Juan Islands should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. Invasive plants may pose a threat.

References: Crawford & Elisens 2006; Sutton 1988.



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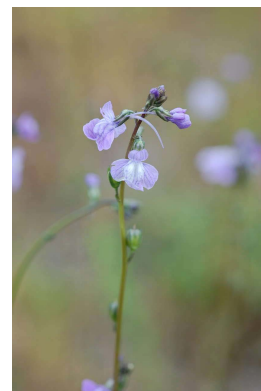


photo by Joe Arnett



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