

***Oxytropis borealis* DC. var. *viscida* (Nutt.) S.L.**

Welsh

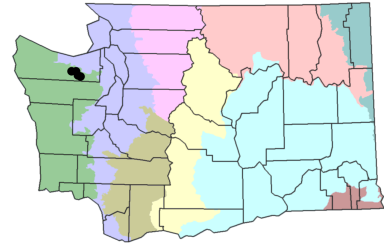
synonym: *Oxytropis viscida* Nutt.

sticky crazyweed

Fabaceae - pea family

status: State Sensitive, USFS strategic

rank: G5T4? / S1S2



General Description: Perennial growing in dense tufts, from a branched, persistent woody base; usually glandular-warty (especially on the calyx), hairy, and sticky throughout. Stemless, or stems so short that the leaves appear to be basal. Leaves pinnately compound, greenish, 3-20 cm long. Leaflets 15-45, linear-lanceolate to narrowly oblong, 5-25 mm long, not whorled. Stipules 6-12 mm long, membranous, fused to the leaf stalk for over half their length.

Floral Characteristics: Racemes 2-7 cm long, spikelike, elongating in fruit. Peduncle leafless, usually slightly exceeding the leaves in length. Flowers 7-30 per raceme, cream-colored (ours) to reddish purple, 10-15 mm long. Keel abruptly narrowed into a short, straight, beaklike point. Calyx 2/3 as long as the corolla, with grayish to blackish hairs. Flowers June to August.

Fruits: Pods 10-15 x 4-6 mm, including a distinct beak, 4-6 mm and covered with grayish to blackish hairs.

Identification Tips: Usually sticky and glandular-warty throughout. Warts are especially noticeable on the calyx teeth, sometimes lacking elsewhere. In the Olympic Mts., flower color is cream with little or no purple. This taxon has been known to cross with *O. campestris*.

Range: Distributed widely but discontinuously from AK to Quebec, southward to the Olympic Mts. of WA, CA, CO, and MN.

Habitat/Ecology: Alpine or subalpine in semiconsolidated scree and scree meadows, on southwest-facing ridgetops where snow melts early, and occasionally in rock crevices. Populations in WA occur with slate, phyllite, sandstone, limestone, calcite, and basalt; limestone or calcite is consistently present. Elevations in WA: 1450-2000 m (4750-6600 ft). Associated species include white sagebrush (*Artemisia ludoviciana* var. *latiloba*), orange agoseris (*Agoseris aurantiaca*), Olympic onion (*Allium crenulatum*), Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), Cascade desert-parsley (*Lomatium martindalei* var. *flavum*), and Pacific stonecrop (*Sedum divergens*).

Comments: Threats include insect infestation of seedpods and impacts from hikers, goats, deer, rabbits, and bears. Insects may leave plants more susceptible to other impacts. This taxon is also rare in MN, WY, UT, Alberta, and Ontario.



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