

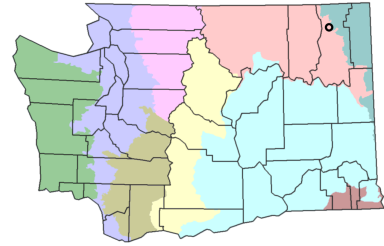
***Physaria didymocarpa* (Hook.) A. Gray ssp.
*didymocarpa***

common twinpod

Brassicaceae - mustard family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T4 / S1



General Description: Heavy-rooted perennial, often with a branched caudex, and silvery star-shaped hairs that are not closely appressed. Stems usually many, somewhat decumbent at the base, 2-17 cm long. Basal leaves numerous, rosette-forming, withering but persistent, 2-8 cm long. Blades obovate, broadly oblanceolate, rhombic, or even ovate; usually with a few teeth or entire; narrowed gradually to broad, winged, and mostly toothed, petiolelike bases about as long as the blades. Stem leaves several, reduced, mostly oblanceolate and entire.

Floral Characteristics: Pedicels 7-18 mm long, ascending, straight, or somewhat curved but not S-shaped. Lateral sepals without saclike bases. Petals yellow, broadly spatulate-obovate, 9-12 mm long.

Fruits: Silicles inflated, not obcompressed, 8-15 mm long and at least as broad, appearing paired, the base slightly heart-shaped, the notch in the tip narrow, nearly closed, 2-4 mm deep. Valves of the silicles 8-12 (15) mm long. The septum between the valves obovate or oblanceolate, more obtuse than acute at the apex, 3-6 x 2-3 mm. Style persistent, 6-9 mm. Identifiable June to August.

Identification Tips: Distinguished from other *Physaria* species by the size and shape of the silicles, the length of the septum between the valves, and the overall shape of the leaves. This taxon also has spreading hairs on the fruits.

Range: Peripheral in WA; Rocky Mts. of B.C., Alberta, ID, MT, WY, to ND. Recent reports of the taxon from Kittitas Co., WA, were misidentifications.

Habitat/Ecology: Occurs in a wide variety of habitats, including river gravel bars, steep shale outcrops, rocky flats, gravelly prairies, talus slopes, dry hillsides, and road cuts. In WA it grows on a very well-drained, gravelly saddle and adjacent slopes at 1500 to 1700 m (5200-5400 ft). Overall vegetation cover is relatively low; associated species include gray rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), wormleaf stonecrop (*Sedum stenopetalum*), Gray's biscuitroot (*Lomatium grayi*), and sulphur-flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*).

Comments: The taxon has been reported only once in recent years; it is also rare in B.C. and WY. Threats include ground-disturbing activities such as timber harvesting and mining.

References: Rollins 1993.

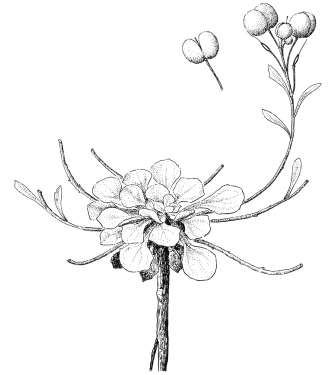


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