

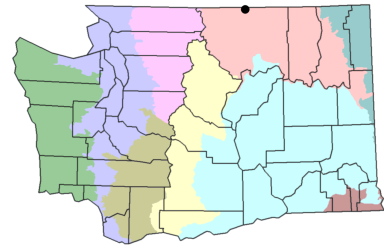
## ***Potentilla jepsonii*** Ertter

synonym: *Potentilla rubricaulis* Lehm., *Potentilla quinquefolia* (Rydb.) Rydb., *Potentilla nivea* L. var. *pentaphylla* Lehm.

Jepson's cinquefoil

Rosaceae - rose family

status: State Review group 1 - rank: GNR / SNR



**General Description:** Perennial herb with a small branched crown; stems ascending to erect, usually grayish-woolly, 1-2 dm long. Upper leaf surfaces greenish, hairy with coarse to long, silky, slender hairs; lower surfaces covered with grayish-woolly hairs. Basal leaves numerous, mostly with 3 leaflets, but often with 5 leaflets, usually palmate, sometimes nearly pinnate. Leaflets oblong, (0.5) 1-2 (3) cm long, with oblong-rounded teeth, extending about halfway to the midvein. Stem leaves usually 1-2, not much reduced and often glandular as well as hairy.

**Floral Characteristics:** Cymes closely several-flowered, with conspicuous bracts. Calyx bowl-shaped, barely 1 cm wide even in fruit, covered with long, silky, slender, appressed hairs; lobes lanceolate, 3-4 mm long. Petals yellow, heart-shaped, slightly longer than the sepals. Stamens usually 20; pistils numerous. Style slender, glandular-thickened, warty-papillose at the base, longer than the achene.

**Fruits:** Smooth achenes, about 1.5 mm long. Identifiable June to July.

**Identification Tips:** *P. jepsonii* is less than 2 dm tall; its leaves have 3-5 leaflets (never more than 5), which are cleft about halfway to the midrib. *Potentilla pensylvanica* is 2-5 dm tall, with 5-11 leaflets per leaf. *P. nivea* has only 3 coarsely toothed leaflets per leaf.

**Range:** B.C. to Sask., southward in the Rocky Mts. to CO and UT. Also in southcentral OR, and disjunct in WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Alpine and subalpine moist to dry gravelly meadows and river bars. In WA this taxon occurs along a summit ridge at 2400 m (7800 ft), and roadside in a valley bottom at 1000 m (3500 ft). Associated species include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), grand fir (*Abies grandis*), common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), sedge (*Carex* spp.), moss campion (*Silene acaulis*), slender mountain sandwort (*Arenaria capillaris*), tufted fescue (*Festuca brachyphylla*), milk-vetch (*Astragalus* spp.), cutleaf daisy (*Erigeron compositus*), and white arctic mountain heather (*Cassiope tetragona*).

**Comments:** Appropriate habitat in Okanogan Co. should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. This taxon is also rare in B.C., Sask., and MT.

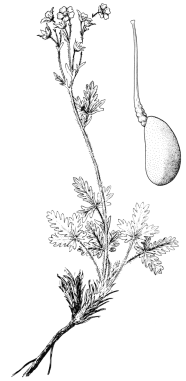


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