## Potentilla newberryi A. Gray

Newberry cinquefoil Rosaceae - rose family status: State Possibly Extirpated

rank: G3G4 / SH

**General Description:** Short-lived, taprooted perennial; crown simple to branched but nonrhizomatous. Stems numerous, leafy throughout, 5-30 (50) cm long, sprawling or ascending, grayish-silky to coarsely hairy. Basal leaves pinnate, few, 2-4 cm long. Leaflets (5) 7-15 (21), crowded, pinnately dissected into 3-9 segments 3-5 (7) mm long.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence usually freely branched, subtended by leafy bracts. Flowers fragrant, largely hidden by the foliage. Calyx shallowly bowl shaped, sepals lanceolate, spreading, (3) 4-5 (6) mm long. Petals cream or white, spreading, (4) 5-6 mm long, obovate, rounded and sometimes notched at the apex. Stamens 20. Pistils numerous; style elongate, tapering from a glandular-roughened base, attached almost at the tip of the ovary.

**Fruits:** A chenes strongly reticulate, brownish, about 1.3 mm long. Identifiable A pril to July.

**Identification Tips:** *P. newberryi* might be confused with *P. paradoxa*. However, the leaflets of *P. paradoxa* are 1-3 cm long with rounded serrations, and the petals are yellow. In contrast, *P. newberryi* has leaflets pinnately dissected into ultimate segments less than 1 cm long, and cream or white petals. Both species can be found along shorelines.

Range: Southcentral OR to northern CA and NV; disjunct in WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Historically on a receding shoreline of the Columbia River near Bingen, WA, at 20 m (70 ft). This species almost always occurs in wetlands where there is some seasonal drying, such as dry lakeshores, vernal pools, water holes, and river shorelines.

**Comments:** In WA *P. newberryi* is known from 2 historical records in Klickitat Co. (1 from Bingen, and a missing collection from Wallula Gap). The historical sites are now flooded in dam reservoirs, and adjacent upland habitats are developed and dominated by weedy plants. The Columbia River mudflats that were extensive historically are now either submerged or exposed at the wrong time of year and too briefly for the development of plant communities dependent on receding shorelines. Surveys for *P. newberryi* in Klickitat Co. in 2002 were unsuccessful. This taxon is also rare in CA.





Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish, ©1961 University of Washington Press



© Paul Slichter



© Paul Slichter