

***Silene sargentii*** S. Watson  
Sargent's catchfly  
Caryophyllaceae (Pink Family)

**Status:** State Review Group 1  
**Rank:** G4S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hickman (1993): *Silene sargentii* is a perennial plant 4 to 6 in. (10-15 cm) tall and very branched at the base. The stem may be erect or prostrate along the ground, and is minutely hairy and glandular above. The basal leaves are tufted and fleshy, ½ to more than 1 in. (1.5-3 cm) long, about 1/16 in. (1-3 mm) wide, and oblanceolate. The stem leaves are 3/8 to 1 in. (1-2.5 cm) long, about 1/16 in. (1-2 mm) wide, and somewhat linear. The leafy bracts below the petals are tubular, 3/8 to 5/8 in. (9-15 mm) long, minutely glandular-hairy, and 10-veined, with lobes 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2-3 mm) long. The petal claw has hairs along the base margins. The petals are white to red-purple and 2-lobed with 2 appendages. The woolly fruit is somewhat ovoid, on a stalk 1/16 to 1/8 in. (1.5-3 mm) long.

**Identification Tips:** There are several other species of *Silene* that occur in Chelan County, Washington. *Silene douglasii*, *S. menziesii*, *S. parryi*, *S. suksdorfii*, and *S. sargentii* all occur at high elevations, are perennial, and have white to red-purple flowers that are 2-lobed with 2 appendages. Of these, only *S. suksdorfii* has tufted, fleshy basal leaves like those of *S. sargentii*. These two species may be distinguished by the color of hairs on the pedicels and calyx (leafy bracts beneath the flowers). The hairs of *S. suksdorfii* are purple, whereas those of *S. sargentii* are colorless.

**Phenology:** *Silene sargentii* blooms in the summer; the bloom time varies according to elevation.

**Range:** This species is found in California and Nevada, and is disjunct in Washington, where it is only known from Chelan County.

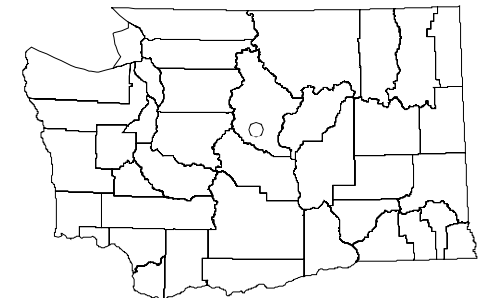
**Habitat:** *Silene sargentii* is found in subalpine and alpine forest from 7900 to 12500 ft (2400-3800 m) throughout its range. The elevation at which it was found in Washington is unknown.

**Ecology:** This species is one of several species of the Wenatchee Mountains that are disjunct from their primary range.

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No illustration available

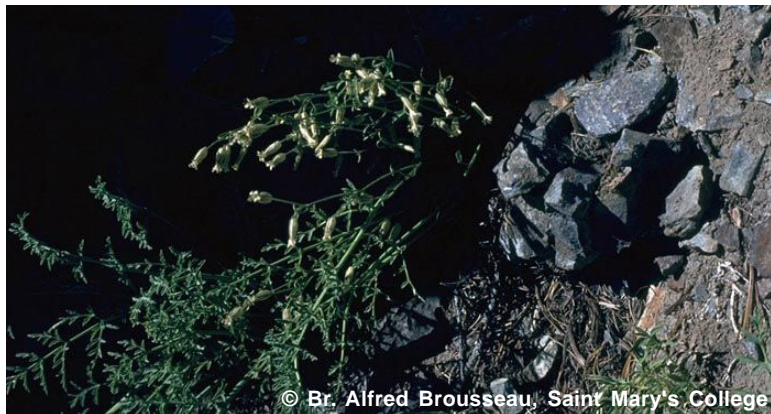
Known distribution  
of *Silene sargentii*  
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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2005 Produced as part of a cooperative project between the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Natural Heritage Program and the U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management. Persons needing this information in an alternative format, call (360) 902-1600 or TTY (360) 902-1125.

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**State Status Comments:** This species is known in Washington from one historic occurrence from 1954. Because *Silene sargentii* was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time.

**Inventory Needs:** The historic site needs to be revisited.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** The threats to this species are not known.

**Comments:** This species does not occur in Hitchcock (1964). If that flora were used to key this species, it would probably be misidentified as *S. suksdorfii*, which has purple calyx hairs rather than white.

### References:

Hickman, J.C. 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 1400 pp.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 597 pp.

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