# ***Artemisia campestris*** L. **var. *wormskioldii*** (Bess.) Cronquist

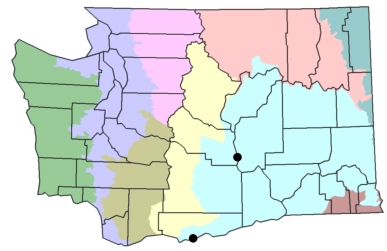
synonym: *Artemisia borealis* Pall. var. *wormskioldii* Besser

Wormskiold's northern wormwood

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Endangered, Federal Candidate, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T1 / S1



**General Description:** Low, taprooted biennial or perennial, generally 15-30 cm tall, with herbage, especially the leaves, conspicuously covered with silky hairs. Basal leaves in crowded rosettes, mostly 2-10 x 0.7-4 cm, and 2-3 times pinnatifid or ternately divided into mostly linear lobes. Stem leaves similar but smaller and less divided, the upper often ternate to simple.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence narrow, spikelike, with small disciform heads; involucres 3-4 mm high. Outer flowers female and fertile; disk flowers sterile with abortive ovaries. Flowers early to mid-April, with occasional individuals flowering throughout the season.

**Fruits:** Hairless achenes.

**Identification Tips:** Found in association with *A. campestris* var. *scouleriana*. The two taxa appear identical vegetatively; however, *A. campestris* var. *scouleriana* is much taller, to 1 m, and flowers much later in the season. *A. ludoviciana*, also present in the same habitat, is darker green, not covered with spiky hairs, spreads by rhizomes, and has broad leaf lobes. *A. campestris* var. *wormskioldii* is generally shorter and more hairy than other members of the genus within its range, and has relatively large involucres (3-4 mm versus 1-3 mm in other closely related taxa).

photo by John Gamon

**Range:** Regional endemic, known from 2 widely disjunct sites along the Columbia River, WA. Historically from Hood River and Wasco cos., OR; currently presumed extirpated from OR.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Arid shrub steppe habitats on basalt, compacted cobble, and shifting sand, usually on relatively flat terrain. Within the floodplain of the Columbia River. Associated vegetation includes field sagewort (*A. campestris* var. *scouleriana*), *A. ludoviciana*, arrowleaf buckwheat (*Eriogonum compositum*), silverleaf phacelia (*Phacelia hastata*), and diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*).

photo by Joe Arnett

**Comments:** Threats include weed invasion, soil compaction from vehicles, and recreation at known sites. Drifting sand appears to be burying plants at one site.

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 19, 20, and 21; Hooker 1833.

Adapted from *Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Washington*
http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/CAMFIE.html