

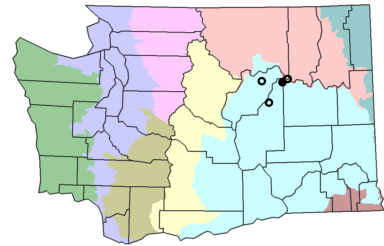
Thelypodium sagittatum* (Nutt.) Endl. ssp. *sagittatum

arrow thelypody

Brassicaceae - mustard family

status: State Sensitive

rank: G4T4 / S1



General Description: Waxy-coated, freely branched biennial from a taproot, 3-7 dm tall, completely hairless or with short, stiff hairs at the base. Basal leaves and lowest stem leaves oblanceolate, 4-10 cm long, margins entire, and narrowed gradually to short, winged petioles. Upper stem leaves broadly to narrowly lanceolate, 2.5-6 cm long, margins entire, sessile and strongly clasping at the base with ear-shaped lobes.

Floral Characteristics: Raceme flat-topped or convex when young, elongating up to 3.5 dm. Pedicels spreading to ascending, 4-12 mm long. Sepals 4, erect, not saclike at the base, 5-8 mm long, pinkish lavender to purplish. Petals 4, 10-16 mm long, light to deep violet purple, slender, oblanceolate.

Fruits: Siliques straight, ascending, 2.5-8 cm x 1-1.5 mm, slightly constricted between the seeds. Identifiable in WA from June to July.

Identification Tips: No other subspecies of *T. sagittatum* are known from WA. *T. howellii* is also rare and has sessile, somewhat clasping stem leaves; it is distinguished by its lobed basal leaves. *T. sagittatum* has entire basal leaves. Other *Thelypodium* species in WA have nonclasping stem leaves lacking earlike lobes. *Caulanthus lasiophyllus* is an annual with reflexed siliques.

Range: WA south to OR and NV, and east to MT, WY, and CO.

Habitat/Ecology: Moist swales and meadows in sagebrush plains and scablands and moist alkaline meadows and salt flats that dry by midsummer. Associated species include dense silky-bent (*Apera interrupta*), tall annual willowherb (*Epilobium brachycarpum*), alkali popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys leptocladus*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), basin wild rye (*Leymus cinereus*), and pale spike-rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*). Moist alkaline areas in eastern WA have a unique assemblage of species that are adapted to extreme hydrologic variation and soil chemistry.

Comments: This taxon is limited in occurrences and range, and is infrequent in sites where it is found. Livestock grazing may be its greatest threat in our area. It is also rare in MT.



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