



Tiny Cryptantha (*Cryptantha minima*)

Borage Family (Boraginaceae)

National Status: **THREATENED**

Provincial Status: **THREATENED**



Identification

- Annual up to 20 cm tall (often much shorter) and bristly on all parts
- Few basal leaves, 5-15 mm long and spatula-shaped
- Leaf-like bracts under each flower
- Whitish line (nerve) on sepals
- Tiny, white flowers with a yellow centre
- Seeds are 4 nutlets in a cluster (3 small and rough, 1 large and smooth)



Habitat

- Dry, sandy prairie, such as valley/coulee slopes or uplands



Look-alike species

- Kelsey's Cryptanthe (*Cryptantha kelseyana*)
- Clustered Oreocarya (*Cryptantha celosioides*)
- Fendler's Cryptanthe (*Cryptantha fendleri*)
- Snake River Cat's-eye (*Cryptantha spiculifera*)



Info & Distribution

- Blooms May-June
- Known sites occur near the South Saskatchewan River where it flows into Saskatchewan



Threats

- Cultivation
- Oil and gas activities
- Sand and gravel removal
- Lack of grazing and/or fire
- Invasion by alien species
- Altered natural processes (water cycle)



Best Management Practices

- Native prairie conservation
- Invasive species monitoring and control
- Continued grazing of prairie
- Continued monitoring and adaptive management
- Maintenance or enhancement of sand prairie habitat
- Control of woody encroachment



Native Plant Society
of Saskatchewan



If you see
this plant:

- ✓ Contact NPSS
- ✗ Do not pick
- ✓ Take close-up photos
- ✓ Use something for scale
- ✓ Note the plant's location

If you see this plant, contact the
Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan:

(306) 668-3940 OR INFO@NPSS.SK.CA

Learn more

The Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan's Rare Plants and Ranchers program helps to conserve the province's plant species at risk by working with landowners to develop site-specific beneficial management plans, and support its implementation by providing match funding, logistical support, and monitoring.

For more information on the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, our programs or plant species at risk, visit www.npss.sk.ca.

Reference: A Pocket Guide to the Rare Plants of Southern Saskatchewan by Nature Saskatchewan.

Photo credit: C. Neufeld



Tiny *Cryptantha* habitat

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada