

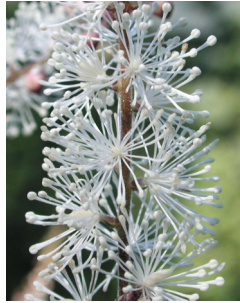
Cimicifuga elata

Ranunculaceae

tall bugbane



Scott Sundberg



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Bruce Newhouse

VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST (1964) Hitchcock & Cronquist, courtesy of University of Washington Press.

flowers with conspicuous stamens



fruit a single follicle on a short stalk



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large compound leaves with maple-like leaflets



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lower side of leaflets hairy (upper side shown with hairs on stalk)

stems finely hairy, especially at nodes, glandular above (not shown)

Tall perennial herbs from woody rootstalks. Stems hairy at nodes, branched from above, 1-2 m tall, finely pubescent, somewhat glandular above. **Leaves** compound, biternate; leaflets maple-like, cordate-ovate, to 30 cm long, 12 cm wide, 3 lobed; lobes again cleft and serrate-dentate, sparsely to densely hairy beneath. **Inflorescence** a panicle to 40 cm long, with leafy bracts and closely packed flowers; pedicels 2-5 mm long. **Flowers** numerous; sepals 3-4 mm long, white or pinkish, falling as flower opens; petals lacking; stamen filaments narrow, not petal-like. **Fruits** solitary follicles, oblong, 9-12 mm long, usually sessile, or with short stipe about 1 mm long, reflexed, brown, sharply beaked below the apex.

Lookalikes

differs from featured plant by

- Actaea rubra* stems not hairy at nodes, lower surface of leaves nearly hairless, flower cluster shorter, fruit berry-like and red
- Cimicifuga laciniata* leaves densely pubescent, leaflets more deeply toothed, not maple-like, flowers usually with some petal-like stamens, fruits of 2-5 follicles per flower, follicle stipe 3-6 mm long

best survey times
J|F|M|A|M|J|J|A|S|O|N|D

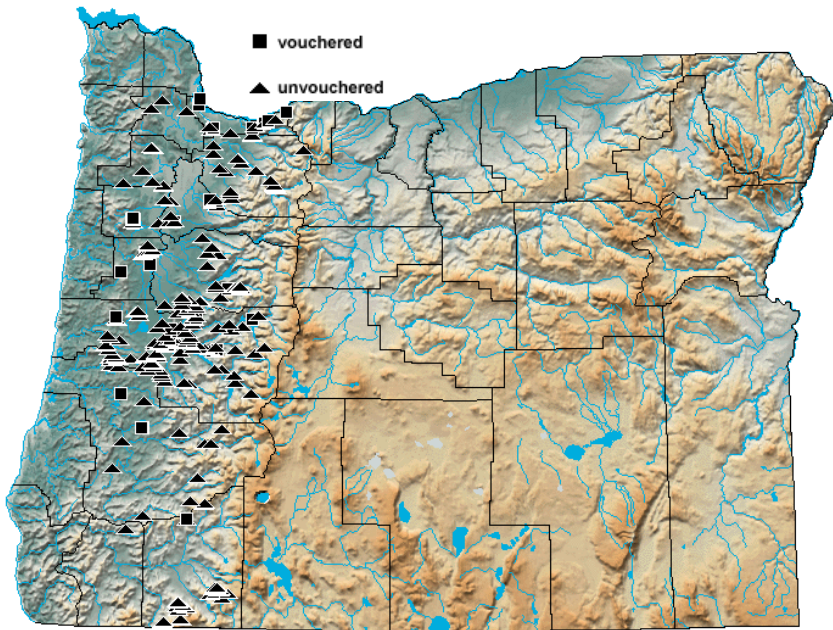


Cimicifuga elata Nutt.

tall bugbane

PLANTS symbol: CIEL

September 2002 status Oregon:C; ONHIC:1



Distribution: West of the Cascade Mountains; Washington; southwestern British Columbia.

Habitat: In or at margins of moist conifer forests or mixed conifer-deciduous forests, usually on northerly aspects; in filtered light. Typically the dominant conifer is Douglas fir; bigleaf maple or red alder are often also present in the overstory.

Elevation: 50-5600 feet

Best survey time (in flower): (late May) June-August

Associated species:

Pseudotsuga menziesii (Douglas fir)

Acer macrophyllum (bigleaf maple)

Alnus rubra (red alder)

Acer circinatum (vine maple)

Corylus cornuta (hazelnut)

Adiantum aleuticum (maidenhair fern)

Prosartes hookeri (Hooker's fairybells)

Dicentra formosa (bleeding heart)

Polystichum munitum (sword fern)



1 cm



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Published August 2019