

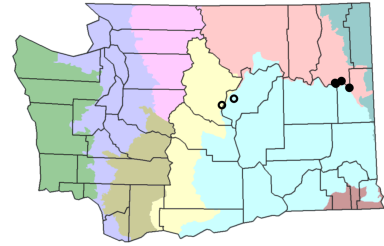
Hackelia cinerea (Piper) I.M. Johnst.

gray stickseed

Boraginaceae - borage family

status: State Sensitive, BLM strategic

rank: G4? / S1



General Description: Perennial, 2-8 dm tall; stems several or sometimes solitary, with straight, stiff, appressed hairs, and usually with spreading bristles. Leaves hairy or rough with coarse, stiff, spreading or subappressed hairs, and often with silky, long, somewhat appressed hairs above and woolly hairs below. Basal leaves well developed and commonly persistent, petiolate, oblanceolate or narrowly elliptic, 5-20 cm x 4-15 mm; stem leaves mostly sessile and progressively smaller, lanceolate to linear or linear-oblong.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers borne in an elongating cyme; corolla white with a yellow eye, shortly tubular with an abruptly spreading, 5-lobed limb (5) 7-12 mm wide. Small crests in the throat of the corolla are papillate-hairy. Flowers mid-May to July.

Fruits: Nutlets generally 4, with marginal prickles united for 1/3-1/2 their length to form an evident cup-shaped border; dorsal surface with small intramarginal prickles.

Identification Tips: Distinguished from other Pacific Northwest members of the genus by the long, silky, somewhat appressed hairs on the upper surface of the leaves, and the shape, texture, and surface of the small crests in the throat of the corolla. There is overlap with *Hackelia diffusa* var. *arida* and *H. ciliata* in most other identifying characters.

Range: Northwestern MT, north and central ID. Peripheral in WA, where all confirmed occurrences are along the Spokane River or its tributaries. Reports in WA from Chelan and Douglas cos. require review.

Habitat/Ecology: Open or sparsely forested areas, especially on cliffs, talus, or other exposed rock, often in mossy cracks. Associated species include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), penstemon (*Penstemon fruticosus*, *P. richardsonii*), and Oregon cliff fern (*Woodsia oregana*). Elevations in WA: 320-770 m (1040-2520 ft). Many *Hackelia* species are restricted to sites with low plant density and so are probably poor competitors.

Comments: Threats include recreation, flooding from reservoir management, and invasive plants, including diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*) and Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*). This species is also rare in MT.

References: Gentry & Carr 1976.



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