

Astragalus sterilis (Barren Milk-Vetch)

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)

Status: Federal Category II (C2) recommended for Threatened status

Known Locations: Owyhee County, Idaho  
Malheur County, Oregon

Idaho

T1S, R5W, Sec. 30 NWNE 1/2 mile N of McBride Creek Road, E of Hwy 95  
T2S, R6W, Sec. 11 one mile from OR-ID border, Upper Dry Creek

Soil Type: Barren diatomaceous earth or volcanic ash within the Succor Creek Formation

Habitat and Ecology: A rhizomatous, wiry perennial of ash soils not breaking down into clay. On bluffs and knolls at 4,000-4,300 feet in Idaho. Associated with bitterbrush and Sandberg bluegrass. The plant was relocated in Idaho in 1986 for the first time since 1948. Its fine, wiry appearance and sparse leaves make it difficult to locate. Active mining claims cover the entire area at the Dry Creek site, and the McBride Creek site is mostly within the highway right-of-way. Blooms May and June.

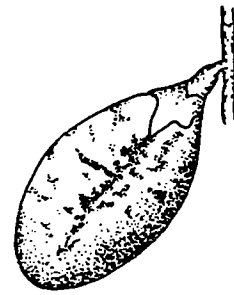
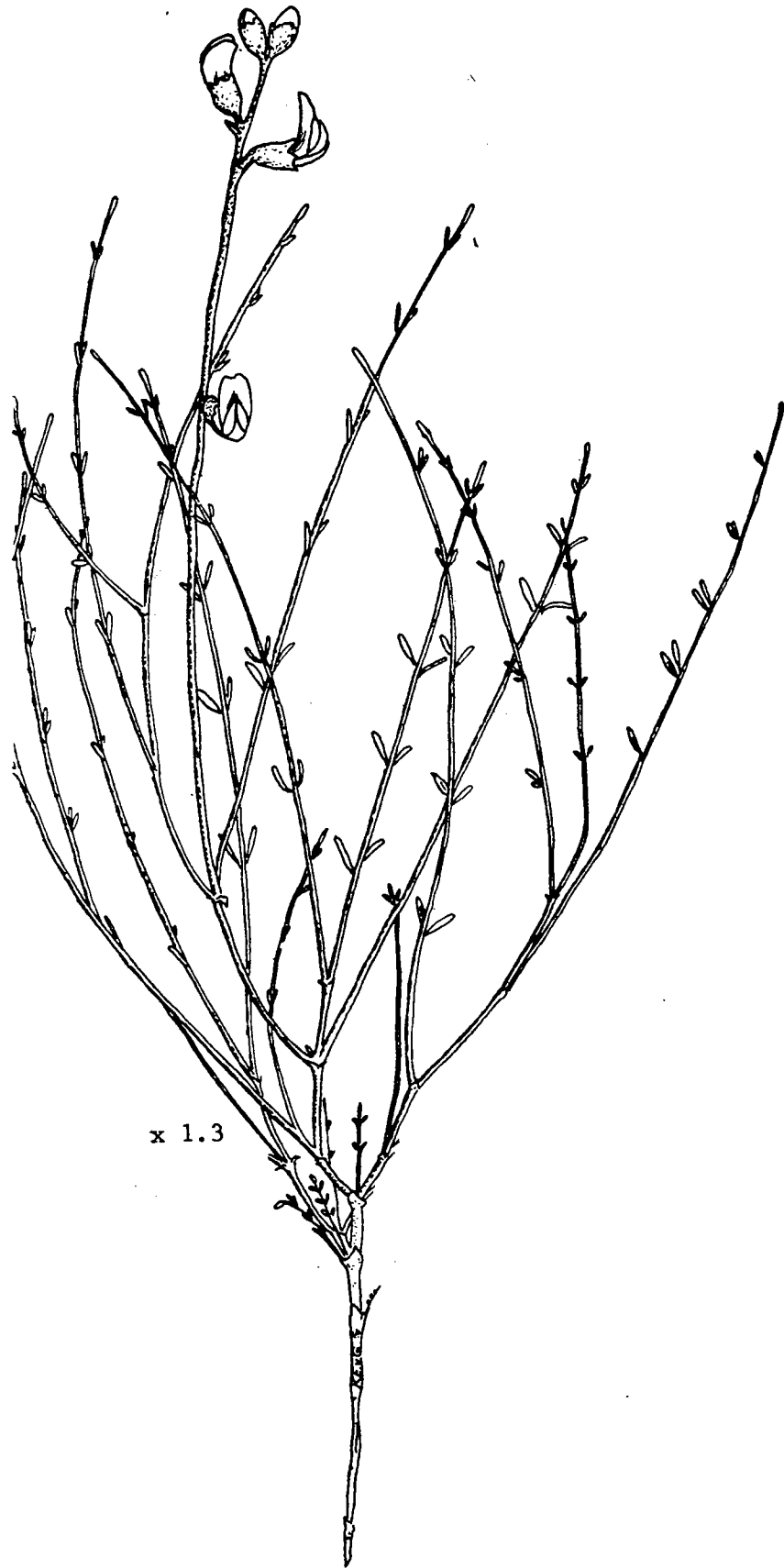
Threats: Mining and off-road vehicles, range improvement projects

Key Characteristics

Pods inflated, papery,  
purple-mottled  
Leaves sparse, stems wiry  
Flowers yellowish  
Plants rhizomatous

Astragalus sterilis

Barren Milk-Vetch



x 1.6

Astragalus vallis (Snake Canyon Milk-Vetch)

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)

Status: Sensitive on the BLM and State Sensitive Plant Lists

Known Locations: Adams, Washington Counties, Idaho  
Baker, Malheur Counties, Oregon

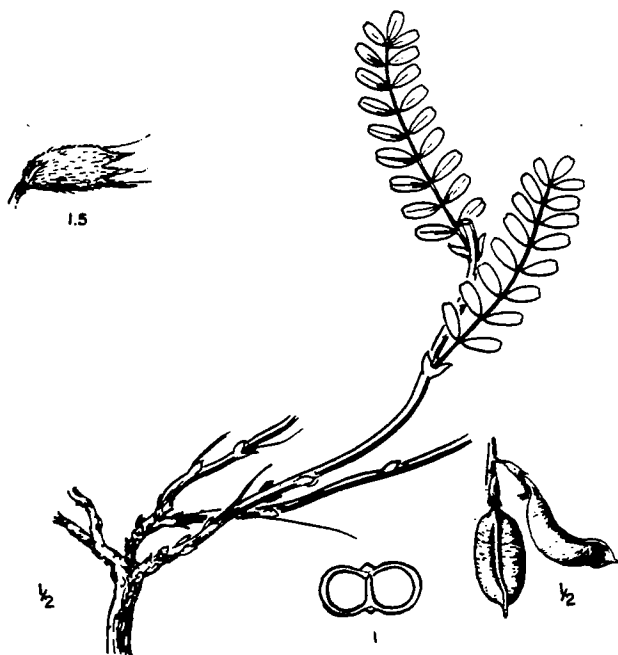
Idaho

T14N, R5W, Sec. ? 4th of July Creek  
T14N, R6W, Sec. 8 Dennett Creek by Brownlee Reservoir  
T14N, R7W, Sec. 23 Sumac Creek by Brownlee Reservoir  
T18N, R4W, Sec. 3 SESW, 4 NESE Summer Creek  
T18N, R4W, Sec. 13, 35 Wildhorse River  
NW of Weiser (historic record)  
In disturbed area by road-cut at airstrip, Hells Canyon Reservoir

Soil Type: Clay loam of basaltic origin

Habitat and Ecology: A low-growing perennial on steep, south-facing hillsides in bitterbrush and bluebunch wheatgrass communities in the Snake River Canyon. Of the few known sites, their presence on range in good condition may indicate that livestock grazing has been responsible for severely reducing the number of populations. Blooms early, from April to June. In 1984, most plants were already in fruit by mid-May.

Threats: Overgrazing and range improvement programs



Key Characteristics

Flowers whitish, + 2 cm long  
Large, fleshy pods 2.4-4 cm long  
Pods elevated on thick stipes  
Pods contracted at both ends, and very thick and sturdy

Astragalus yoder-williamsii (Osgood Mountains Milk-Vetch)

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)

Status: Federal Category II (C2) recommended for Threatened status.

Known Locations: Owyhee County, Idaho  
Humboldt County, Nevada (one site)

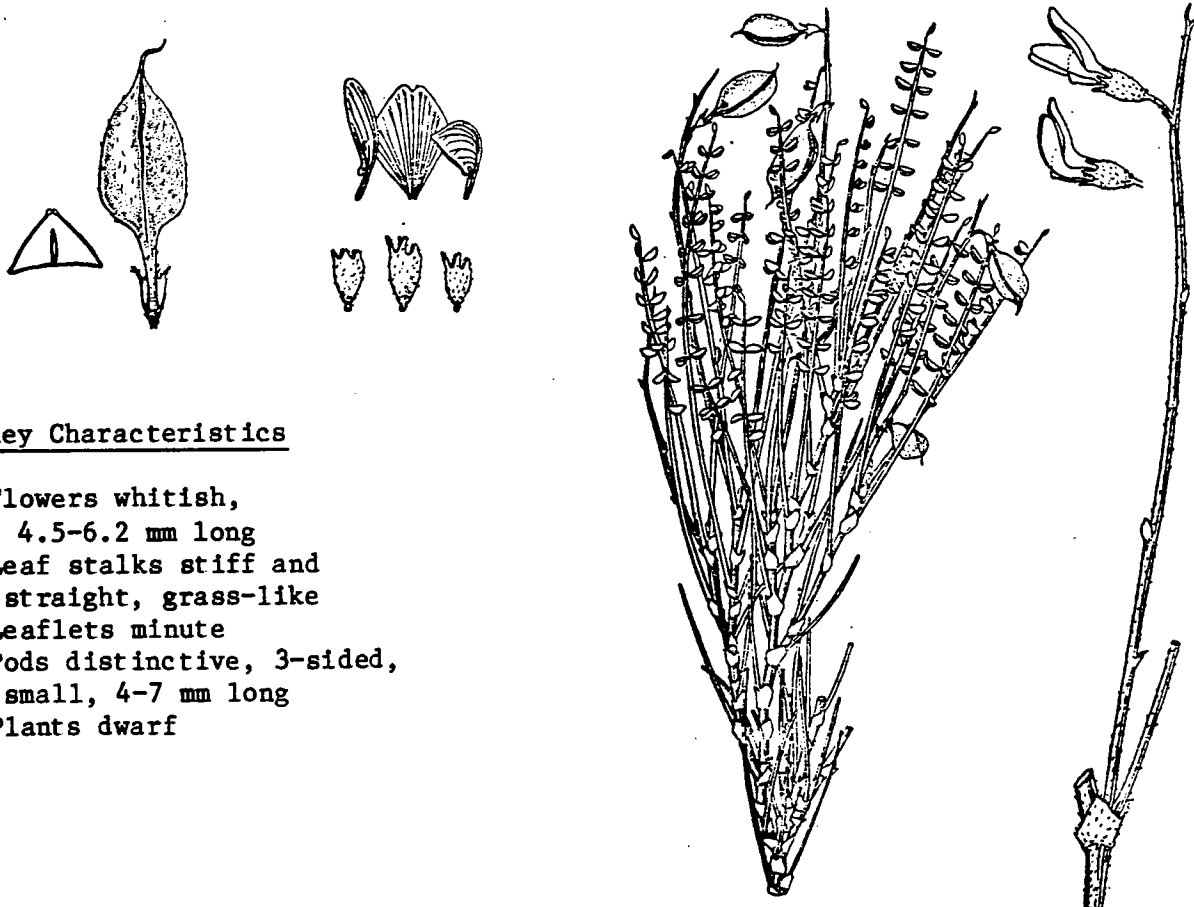
Idaho

T7S, R2W, Sec. 6,7 4 miles N of Triangle  
T8S, R1W, Sec. 36 NW Battle Creek  
T9S, R1W, Sec. 3,8,10 (sites uncertain and unable to be relocated, N of Big Springs Ranch)  
T10S, R3W, Sec. 2,8 NW Hurry Back Creek, Owyhee Mtns.  
T10S, R4W, Sec. 21,23 NW,31 East of Pleasant Valley Creek, Owyhee Mtns.  
T10S, R5W, Sec. 22,36 South of the North Fork Owyhee River  
T11S, R4W, Sec. 11,14 Smith Creek

Soil Type: In Idaho on fine loamy, mixed, frigid Typic Argosoll soils. In Nevada on decomposed granitic gravel

Habitat and Ecology: A dwarf, densely tufted perennial from mixed low sage and lower elevation mountain big sage-rabbitbrush sites. Also found on rhyolitic gravel soils in low sage-Eriogonum habitat. Elevational range is from 5,200 to 6,000 feet. In the field, particularly when dry, its visual appearance is similar to a clump of Idaho fescue. Blooms from May to June

Threats: Off-road vehicle use on the easily erodable soils, mining



Key Characteristics

Flowers whitish,  
4.5-6.2 mm long  
Leaf stalks stiff and  
straight, grass-like  
Leaflets minute  
Pods distinctive, 3-sided,  
small, 4-7 mm long  
Plants dwarf

Camassia cusickii (Cusick's Camas)

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)

Status: Federal Category 3C and Sensitive on the BLM and State Sensitive Plant Lists

Known Locations: Ada, Adams, Gem, Washington Counties  
Baker County, Oregon

Idaho

T2N, R4W, Sec. 22 or 23 about 4 miles SSE of Marsing, probably extirpated  
T8N, R1W, Sec. 13,24 or 25 Squaw Butte (historic record)  
T17N, R5W, Sec. 27 or 28 Warm Springs Creek, Brownlee Reservoir  
T18N, R4W, Sec. 3 SWSW,4 SENE & NESE,9 NWSW & SESW,10 NENE,21 SWNW,33 SWSE  
T19N, R4W, Sec. 17,20 West of Oxbow Dam Spillway  
Snake River, just below Oxbow Dam (1974 historic record)  
One mile N of Oxbow Bridge (historic record, no longer present)

Soil Type: Silt loam of basaltic origin

Habitat and Ecology: Perennial liliaceous plant found on steep, moist slopes and terraces and basaltic cliffs, and in portions of streams with slow-moving water. Within the bitterbrush and bluebunch wheatgrass communities of the Snake River Canyon. Historically found in open meadows in Oregon. Populations found in 1985 were grazed by cattle. Blooms April to July, dependent upon elevation. (If located, dig up the bulb for positive identification.)

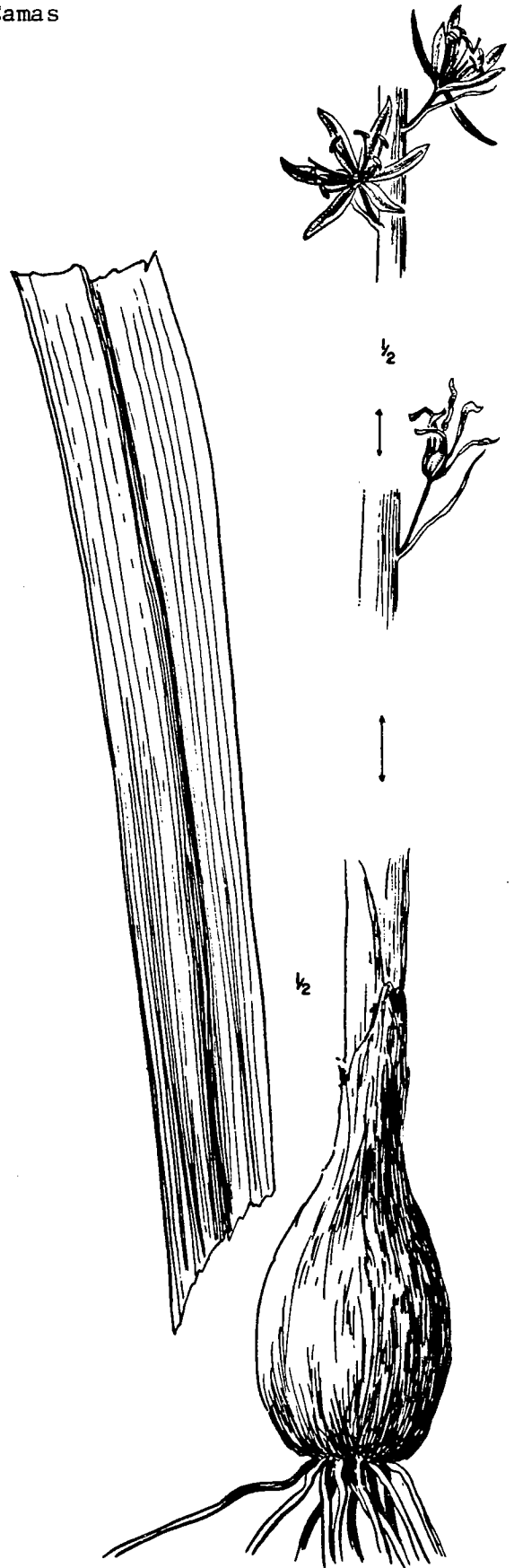
Threats: Livestock grazing

Key Characteristics

A very large blue Camas  
Leaves 10 or more  
Leaves broad, 10-40 mm  
Bulbs clustered, 5-10 cm long  
and ill-smelling

Camassia cusickii

Cusick's Camas



Carex aboriginum (Indian Valley Sedge)

Family: Cyperaceae (Sedge)

Status: Federal Category II (C2) believed to be extinct

Known Locations: Adams County, Idaho

Approximately T14N, R1W, 10 miles E of Cambridge  
Indian Valley, collected on July 12, 1899 (type collection)  
This collection is in the New York Botanical Gardens Herbarium

Soil Type: "Dry gumbo soil wet in the spring"

Habitat and Ecology: This species appears to occur in gumbo soil, but with so few collections little more can be said. It grows at approximately 2,700 to 3,000 feet elevation. "This species needs field investigation and may be extinct, but the notably rich representation of the Cyperaceae in the type locality suggests that it may still exist," taken from the 1981 "Red Book," Vascular Plant Species of Concern in Idaho. Indian Valley Sedge has been unsuccessfully searched for by Heritage Program botanists in the last several years. More field work should be done in the Indian Valley area in late June or July to determine if the plant is still present. It probably occurs on private lands.

Threats: None known

#### Key Characteristics

Stems loosely clustered from  
short rhizomes  
Plants 15-80 centimeters tall  
Achene bract (perigynia) inflated,  
with a bidentate beak

Carex aboriginum

Indian Valley Sedge





Chaenactis cusickii (Cusick's False Yarrow)

Family: Asteraceae (Composite)

Status: Priority 1 on the State Sensitive Plant List

Known Locations: Owyhee County, Idaho (probably extinct in Canyon County)  
Malheur County, Oregon (8 known sites)

Idaho

T1S, R4W, Sec. 6 Shares Basin

T1S, R5W, Sec. 13, 19 center Sec. 13 is a historic site, S. 19 is by  
McBride Creek

T1S, R6W, Sec. 1 1.5 miles N of The Rocks State Station on Sands Basin Road

T1N, R4W, Sec. 3, 4 1937 collection, "Squaw Creek, above Blackstock Ranch",  
section numbers not certain

T2N, R4W, Sec. 22 or 23 about 4 miles SSE of Marsing, historic record

T2N, R5W, Sec. 22, 27 near Jump Creek Canyon

Soil Type: Loose volcanic ash with a small pick up of clay

Habitat and Ecology: An annual found in dry, open places on volcanic ash soils, particularly of the Succor Creek Ash variety. Fairly restricted to this soil type, though not as much as most volcanic ash plants. Elevational range is from 2,400 to 4,100 feet, more commonly in the lower range in Atriplex-Wyoming big sage zone. Flower is similar to that of the common false yarrow (*C. douglasii*), but Cusick's false yarrow is an annual, has entire leaves, and is of smaller stature. Blooms April to May.

Threats: Off-road vehicles and mining of the substrate to line irrigation ditches.



Key Characteristics

Flowers white to whitish

Plant less than 10 cm tall

Leaves entire

Stem sparsely woolly

Cryptantha propria (Malheur Cryptantha)

Family: Boraginaceae (Borage)

Status: Review species on the State Sensitive Plant List

Known Locations: Owyhee, Payette (?) Counties, Idaho  
Malheur County, Oregon

Idaho

T2S, R4W, Sec. 24 NWNE Summit of low hill W of Reynolds Creek crossing  
Snake River bluffs, 1932 record

Squaw Creek, 1938 record

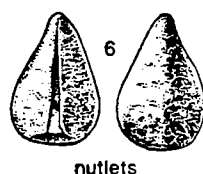
Marsing, 1936 record

18 miles below Weiser, 1910 record

Soil Type: Bare soil, ash, and clay slopes

Habitat and Ecology: A perennial of dry open hillsides in the sagebrush-grassland zone from 3,000-4,000 feet. The plant is known from only 6-8 sites in Idaho and Oregon. This may be partly due to the difficulty in determining Cryptantha species, so that many collectors avoid them. It should be searched for and collected to determine its distribution. Blooms April to May.

Threats: Range improvement programs, diatomaceous earth mining



Key Characteristics

Flowers white

Several to numerous equal  
erect stems

Plants 10-24 cm tall

Leaves entire, basal ones  
densely tufted

Fruits are in form of nutlets

Cymopterus acaulis var. greeleyorum (Greeley's Parsley)

Family: Apiaceae (Carrot)

Status: Sensitive on the BLM and State Sensitive Plant Lists

Known Locations: Owyhee County, Idaho

Succor Creek Canyon, Malheur County, Oregon

Idaho

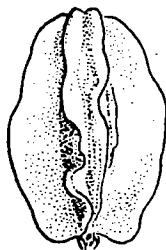
T6S, R6E, Sec. 22 NENE Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park

T6S, R6E, Sec. 22 ridge SW of Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park

Soil Type: Sandy soil in Idaho. Known in Oregon only from Succor Creek ash

Habitat and Ecology: A low-growing perennial with a very dense fruiting umbel. Sites in Idaho and Oregon differ greatly, but they are similar in that they undergo a lot of soil movement. The sand is loosely held together while the ash deposits that have weathered to clay shrink and swell greatly. The ash sites support other rare plants such as Mentzelia mollis and Chaenactis cusickii, while most other plant species will not grow there. On sandy sites it is associated with Indian ricegrass and prickly phlox in the Wyoming big sage-grassland zone. This variety is distinguished from the common var. acaulis by its bright yellow flowers (rather than white). Blooms March and April.

Threats: Off-road vehicles



umbel at anthesis

Key Characteristics

Restricted habitat

Flowers yellow

Ultimate leaf segments are larger than those of the typical variety

Dimersia howellii (Dimersia)

Family: Asteraceae (Composite)

Status: Federal Category 3C and Sensitive on the BLM and State Sensitive Plant Lists

Known Locations: Owyhee County, Idaho  
Harney, Malheur Counties, Oregon  
Elko, Humboldt, Washoe Counties, Nevada  
California (present in two NE counties)

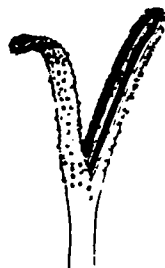
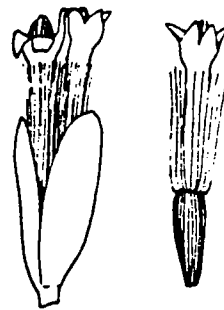
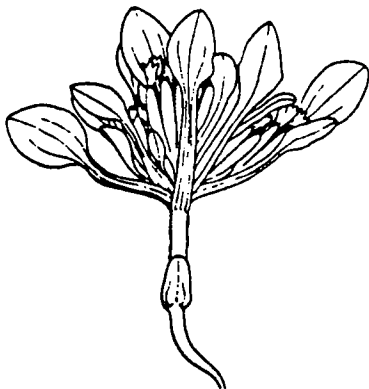
Idaho

T1S, R4W, Sec. 6, 34 Shares Basin; the divide between Squaw & Reynold's Crk  
T1S, R5W, Sec. 13 center South of Shares Basin  
T3S, R3W, Sec. 20 NENE near Dryden Creek and SE of Reynolds  
T9S, R6W, Sec. 36 near North Fork Owyhee River crossing  
T10S, R5W, Sec. 6 near North Fork crossing  
T10S, R6W, Sec. 1 just N of Fairylawn above N. Fork Owyhee River

Soil Type: Volcanic gravel, cinder size

Habitat and Ecology: A dwarf, cushion-like annual in the sunflower family. Found on dry, gravelly or rocky volcanic soil at low to mid elevations in the mountains. In Oregon it is found as low as 3,900 feet, while in Humboldt CO, Nevada it grows on an alpine ridge at 7,600 feet. Its habitat is usually surrounded by sagebrush, but no other plants occur directly with *Dimersia* except annual buckwheats. Idaho is at the NE edge of plant's range. Blooms from May to July.

Threats: Off-road vehicles. Its habitat protects it from most other hazards.



Key Characteristics

Flowers white to pinkish  
or purplish  
Plant woolly at base  
Leaves entire, spatulate  
to ovate  
Annual\*

Eatonella nivea (White Eatonella)

Family: Asteraceae (Composite)

Status: Monitor species on the State Sensitive Plant List

Known Locations: Custer, Elmore, Owyhee Counties, Idaho  
Harney, Malheur Counties, Oregon  
Elko County, Nevada

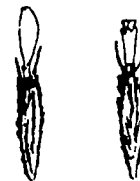
Idaho

T2S, R3W, Sec. 17 NE 4 miles NE of Reynolds off Upper Reynolds Crk Road  
T3S, R1E, Sec. 7 Sinker Creek, E of Otter Massacre site  
T3S, R1E, section number not known  
T4S, R11E, Sec. 31 Walker Reservoir, NE of Glenn's Ferry  
T6S, R6E, Sec. 16,21 NW Waterhouse Gulch vicinity, E and NE of Bruneau  
T8S, R6E, Sec. 16,21 NW SW of Indian Bathtub  
T15S, R4W, Sec. 22 NESE South Fork Owyhee River, Coyote Hole vicinity  
T12N, R19E, Sec. 28 Malm Gulch, 12 miles S of Challis  
4 miles S of Challis on steep gravel; 1947 collection

Soil Type: Dry, sandy or volcanic areas as low as 2,500 feet

Habitat and Ecology: A small woolly annual that frequently forms small tufts. Grows on barren ground usually surrounded by sagebrush, from 2,500-4,200 feet. It occurs in the same soil type as the sensitive species Peteria thompsonae. Not well collected or abundant. It may be sensitive to spring trampling. Blooms from May to July.

Threats: Off-road vehicles and grazing



Key Characteristics

Depressed white-woolly annual\*  
Flower rays yellow or purplish  
Branches from the base forming  
small tufts  
Leaves numerous, oblanceolate  
to spatulate

Epipactis gigantea (Giant Helleborine)

Family: Orchidaceae (Orchid)

Status: Priority 2 on the State Sensitive Plant List

Known Locations: Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Clark, Elmore, Idaho, Jerome,  
Owyhee, Twin Falls Counties, Idaho  
Uncommon in most of the Western states to the Rocky Mtns.

Idaho

T5N, R7E, Sec. 24 Middle Fork Boise River  
T6N, R5E, Sec. 33 S of Idaho City  
T6N, R11E, Sec. 35 near Atlanta  
T8N, R5E, Sec. 1,8,10 NESE South Fork Payette River  
T17N, R14E, Sec. 22 Middle Fork Salmon River  
T18N, R21E, Sec. 12  
T25N, R1E, Sec. 11  
T6S, R5E, Sec. 24 Bruneau  
Murtaugh section of the Snake River  
Vineyard Lake

Soil Type: Streambanks and springs, often on calcareous sites

Habitat and Ecology: A rhizomatous orchid with one to many stems. It is restricted to streambanks, springs, and seepage areas, near thermal or cold water, often in otherwise desert regions. Often grows with monkey flowers, spike rushes, and sedges. The plant still has a broad range, but because of its vulnerable habitat, it is rapidly disappearing. Blooms from April to July.

Threats: Development and human disturbance of cold and hot springs, livestock grazing

Key Characteristics

Flowers brownish-purple  
Plants up to 3 feet tall  
Leaves numerous, elliptical,  
broad

Epipactis gigantea

Giant Helleborine

