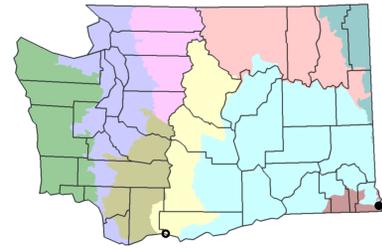


***Diplacus cusickii*** (Greene) G.L. Nesom  
synonym: *Mimulus cusickii* (Greene) Rattan

Cusick's monkeyflower

Scrophulariaceae - figwort family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive  
rank: G4G5 / S1



**General Description:** Low, often stout, simple or much branched annual up to 25 cm tall, glandular-hairy, with an unpleasant odor. Leaves opposite, broad, evidently 3-5 nerved, entire, mostly (1) 1.5-7 x 1-3 cm. Lower leaves somewhat oblanceolate and rounded at the tip; others are broadly ovate or broader, with the uppermost pointed at the tip.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers axillary, sessile or short stalked. Calyx 7-13 mm long, strongly glandular-hairy, with sharp teeth 2-4 mm long. Corolla 2-3.5 cm long, 2-lipped, rich magenta, marked in the throat with yellow and deeper red, persistent for some time after withering. Flowers late May to June.

**Fruits:** Capsules lanceolate, rounded, longer than the calyx, opening with the septum splitting to the base at maturity.

**Identification Tips:** *Diplacus cusickii* is similar to *D. nanus*, *D. clivicola*, and *D. tricolor*, all of which also have magenta to purple flowers. *D. cusickii* is distinguished by its broadly ovate leaves, long corolla, and symmetrical capsules. In contrast, *D. nanus* and *D. clivicola* have obscurely nerved and narrower (mostly less than 12 mm wide) leaves, and smaller corollas (1-2.5 cm). *M. tricolor* has corollas 3-5 cm long, leaves up to 1 cm wide, and capsules with unequal sides, opening late or not at all.

**Range:** Western Great Basin of CA and NV north through eastern OR and southwestern ID, to the Columbia River Gorge and southeastern WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Arid regions, including bottomlands, basalt-derived scree in hot canyon bottoms, volcanic pumice, and sand dunes. Elevations in WA: 25-350 m (75-1120 ft). Associated species are sparse but include arrowleaf buckwheat (*Eriogonum compositum*), Oregon twinpod (*Physaria oregona*), Douglas's dustymaiden (*Chaenactis douglasii*), and dwarf purple monkeyflower (*Diplacus nanus*).

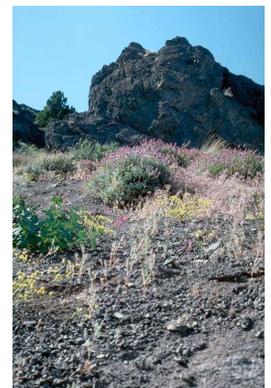
**Comments:** The species is known from 1 historical occurrence and 1 recent occurrence in WA. Bottomlands in Jefferson and Asotin cos. should be surveyed for additional populations. Current threats include livestock grazing and weed invasion. It is also rare in CA.



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