

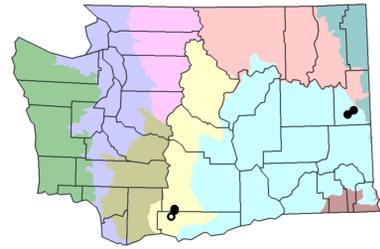
# *Juncus hemiendytus* F.J. Herm. var. *hemiendytus*

dwarf rush

Juncaceae - rush family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic

rank: G5T5 / S1



**General Description:** Diminutive annual up to 3.6 cm tall. Leaves entirely basal, narrow, rarely greater than 1 mm broad. Sheaths 3-4 mm long. Blades linear, often with bristlelike hairs, usually about half as long as the peduncles.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers mostly 2-parted, solitary, terminal on naked peduncles 1-2 cm tall. Involucral bracts usually 2, the upper about 1 mm long and the lower much smaller or sometimes lacking. Tepals 4 (6), 2-3 mm long, reddish, erect or slightly spreading, narrowly lanceolate, with abruptly pointed tips. Stamens 2-3; anthers about 0.5 mm long. Style 0.1-0.4 mm long.

**Fruits:** Capsules usually longer than the tepals, thin-walled, reddish. Seeds many, up to 0.5 mm long, broadly ellipsoid, indistinctly reticulate to smooth. Found May to June in WA.

**Identification Tips:** This taxon is distinguished by its small stature, annual habit, single terminal flowers, 2-3 stamens, 2 unequal bracts, and indistinctly reticulate to smooth seeds. *Juncus kelloggii* has 1-3 flowers per peduncle, bracts nearly equal, 1-1.5 mm long predominantly ridged seeds, and capsules rarely longer than the tepals. *J. uncialis* has 1 truncate bract that nearly surrounds the base of the flowers; flowers are single, terminal, and 3-parted. *J. hemiendytus* var. *abjectus* lacks involucral bracts, and is not known from WA.

**Range:** WA and ID, south to San Bernardino Co., CA, and east to northeast NV and UT.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Mud flats, edges of vernal pools, and moist to wet meadows. WA occurrences are in vernal pools and vernal wet meadows at elevations of 700 to 740 m (2300-2430 ft). Associated species include common spike-rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), lesser navarettia (*Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *minima*), popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys* spp.), rushes (*Juncus bufonius*, *J. balticus*), slender phlox (*Phlox gracilis*), and annual hairgrass (*Deschampsia danthonioides*). This taxon's small seeds are possibly transported in mud adhering to the feet and wings of waterfowl.

**Comments:** There are few known populations; most occur on private land.

**References:** Ertter 1986; Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 22.

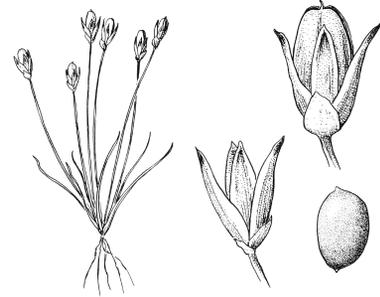
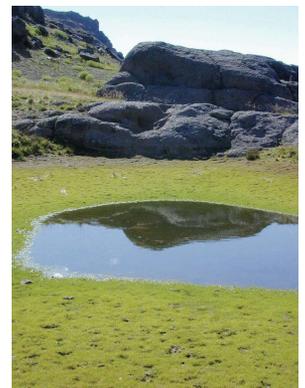


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