

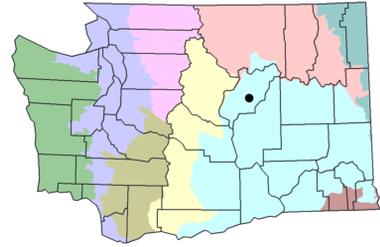
Juncus tiehmii Ertter

Tiehm's dwarf rush

Juncaceae - rush family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Hickman (1993) and Flora of North America (1993+): Tiny annual herb growing in small dense clumps, 1-6 cm tall, with up to 150 stems 0.1-0.2 mm in diameter. Leaves basal, 2.5 cm x 0.1-0.3 mm wide.

Floral Characteristics: Inflorescence terminal in headlike clusters with 1-4 (7) flowers. Bracts subtending inflorescence 2-4 (8), ovate, inconspicuous, 0.6-1.5 mm, membranous, with a pointed tip. Flowers 2-parted; tepals usually 4 (6), green, pinkish, light brown or darker, acute to acuminate; nearly equal 1-3 x 0.4-0.6 mm. Stamens 2 (3), filaments 0.5-0.8 mm, anthers 0.3-0.4 mm. Style 0.2-0.3 mm, stigma 0.2-0.7 mm.

Fruits: Capsules green or pink-tinged, with 2-3 chambers, 2-3 x 1-1.5 mm, usually slightly longer than the tepals. Seeds oblate to ovoid, 0.35-0.55 mm, longitudinally grooved. Identifiable from mid-spring to early fall.

Identification Tips: This species is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). It may look like reddish patches of moss from a distance. *Juncus capillaris* is similar but has capsules that are usually shorter than the tepals and much lighter in color. *Juncus kelloggii* usually has 3-parted flowers and capsules about equal to the tepals in length.

Range: Mexico, CA, ID, NV, OR, and 1 location in WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Bare areas with moist granitic sand along streams, seepage areas around outcrops, depressions in meadows, and moist silt and clay soils. Found at elevations of 300 to 3100 m (985-10,000 ft). In WA this species grows at about 600 m (1970 ft), within shrub steppe habitat, in seepy, moss-covered silt at the base of basalt cliffs and talus, and on mossy, moist benches. Associated species include navarretia (*Navarretia intertexta*), dense silkybent (*Apera interrupta*), basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*), chaparral willowherb (*Epilobium minutum*), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), smooth spike-primrose (*Epilobium pygmaeum*), and Brewer's monkeyflower (*Mimulus breweri*).

Comments: The solitary population in WA occurs on privately owned land. Threats include livestock grazing, development, and off-road vehicles. This taxon is also rare in ID.

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



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