

Lathyrus vestitus Nutt. var. ***ochropetalus*** (Piper)

Isley

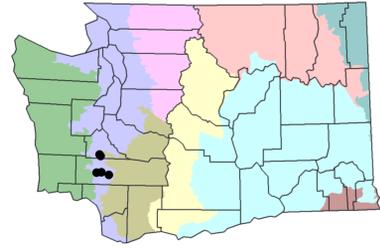
synonym: *Lathyrus vestitus* Nutt. ssp. *bolanderi* (S. Watson) C.L. Hitchc.

Pacific pea

Fabaceae - pea family

status: State Endangered, BLM strategic

rank: G5TNR / S1



General Description: Rhizomatous perennial herb, hairless or with a few cilia on the calyx teeth. Stems 30-100 cm long, suberect to climbing, angled to narrowly winged. Leaves pinnate; leaflets (8) 10 (12), linear to ovate, (2) 3-6 cm x 5-30 mm. Tendrils well developed and usually branched. Stipules 1/4-2/3 as long as the leaflets, lanceolate, the margins undulate-toothed.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers 5-20, creamy white, 15-20 mm long. Calyx 12-15 mm long, tube shorter than the lobes; the upper lobes deltoid-lanceolate, less than 1/2 as long as the lateral pair. Lateral pair lanceolate but noticeably broadened just above the base; lowest lobe 1-2 mm longer than the lateral pair. Banner whitish cream to tan, with pinkish purple lines, 17-22 mm long; blade subequal or longer than the claw. Wings slightly shorter than the banner, keel about equal to the wings with the tip scarcely at all recurved. Flowers May to June.

Fruits: Pods 4-6 cm x 4-7 mm, hairless or sparsely glandular.

Identification Tips: The only variety of *L. vestitus* in WA. *L. holochlorus* is the only other *Lathyrus* with whitish banners growing west of the Cascades in WA. It has a banner blade shorter than the claw and calyx lobes that are linear to lanceolate and not broadened above the base. In contrast, *L. vestitus* ssp. *bolanderi* has a banner blade equal to or longer than the claw, and lateral calyx lobes that are noticeably widened above the base, thus closing the space between them and the lowest lobe. *L. vestitus* also tends to branch only at the base of the plant, while *L. holochlorus* branches at the middle and upper nodes.

Range: Historically from King, Thurston, Lewis, and Cowlitz cos., WA, south to central CA.

Habitat/Ecology: Dry, open to wooded areas, forest edges, and roadsides, near or within historical prairies. Elevations in WA: 75-170 m (250-565 ft). Associated species include young Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga mezesii*), black raspberry (*Rubus leucodermis*), and garden vetch (*Vicia sativa*).

Comments:

References: Broich 1987.



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