

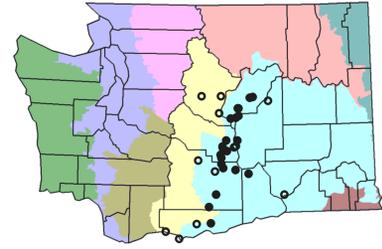
Nicotiana attenuata Steyd.

coyote tobacco

Solanaceae - nightshade family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S2



General Description: Glandular-pubescent, heavily odorous annual 3-10 dm tall. Leaves entire, the lowermost with petioles and lance-ovate to elliptic blades 2.5-12 x 1-5 cm, the others progressively reduced and narrower upward.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers many in elongate panicles. Calyx 5-toothed, the teeth triangular, unequal, the longer ones 2-4 mm long, much shorter than the calyx tube. Corolla opening at night, dirty white, (2) 2.5-3.5 cm long, with a long slender tube, flaring into a circular, flattened limb; the limb 8-14 mm wide when expanded. Blooms June to September.

Fruits: Capsules ovoid, about 1 cm long, partly enclosed by the slightly enlarged calyx tube.

Identification Tips: Easily recognized by its glandular foliage and white, tubular flowers. *Nicotiana acuminata* is a similar non-native species, occurring in similar habitats; it can be distinguished by its wider corolla limbs (12-22 mm wide), and its longer calyx lobes (5-7 mm), which are at least as long as the calyx tube.

Range: East of the Cascades from southern B.C., northern ID, and MT to Baja CA, NM, TX, and northwest Mexico.

Habitat/Ecology: Dry sandy bottomlands, rocky washes, and other dry open places. Associated species include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), rabbitbrush (*Ericameria* spp.), buckwheat (*Eriogonum* spp.), giant wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*), tumblemustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), prickly Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), cut-leaved nightshade (*Solanum triflorum*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), virgin's bower (*Clematis ligusticifolia*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and mentzelia (*Mentzelia laevicaulis*). Elevations in WA: 100-800 m (320-2640 ft).

Comments: *N. attenuata* occurs in areas that are prone to periodic natural and human-caused disturbances, and thus is associated with several aggressive exotic plants that presumably compete for resources. This, combined with the relatively large number of historical collections and the few current known sites, suggests that this species is declining in WA. It is also rare in B.C. and WY. Threats include invasive plants and activities leading to increased erosion, including livestock grazing, agriculture, military training activities, off-road vehicle use, herbicides and road maintenance. *N. attenuata* was widely used by many Native American groups.



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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photo by Gary Horn, BLM

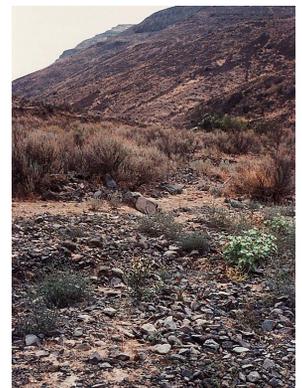


photo by Gary Horn, BLM