

Perideridia oregana S. Wats.

Oregon yampah
Umbelliferae (Carrot Family)

Status: State Review Group 1

Rank: G4G5SNR

General Description: Adapted from Hickman (1993) and Chuang (1969): *Perideridia oregana* is a slender perennial 4 to 36 in. (1-9 dm) tall, and shining green to waxy. The plant arises from a cluster of 2-6 spindle-shaped to spherical, chestnut-brown, tuberous roots. The basal leaf petiole is $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 in. (2-10 cm) long and sheathing to the middle or throughout. The basal leaves are triangular to ovate, 1 to 12 in. (3-30 cm) long, and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (4-14 cm) broad, and are pinnately dissected with each leaflet further dissected into 3 narrow segments. The ultimate segments are $\frac{3}{16}$ to 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (0.5-6 cm) long and up to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (0.5-6 mm) broad. The stem leaves are dissected like a simple feather or with 2-parted leaflets. The inflorescence is convex or sometimes flattened with slender peduncles 1 to 8 in. (3-20 cm) long. There are 1 to 29 unequal rays of flower clusters that are 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (2.5-4 cm) long. The flower clusters have 10 to 29 flowers with toothed leafy bracts beneath. The white petals are rounded, about $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1-1.5 mm) long and broad, and have a single vein. The fruit is oblong, $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (3-6 mm) long, about $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1.5-2 mm) broad, and has threadlike ribs.

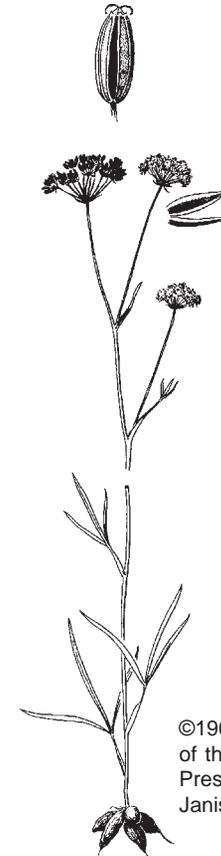
Identification Tips: The only other species of *Perideridia* that occurs in the same counties in Washington is *P. gairdneri*. *P. oregana* is very similar to *P. gairdneri*. The fruit of *P. gairdneri* is nearly round and 3.5 mm or less in length, while the fruit of *P. oregana* is evidently longer than wide and 3-6 mm in length. *P. gairdneri* typically has a cluster of 1-3 tuberous roots with 1-3 clusters (our subspecies usually 2-3), and *P. oregana* has a cluster of 2-6 roots. *P. oregana* has basal leaves that are bipinnately or tripinnately dissected, while *P. gairdneri* has simply pinnate leaves with 3-5 pinnae and its lower pinnae are sometimes deeply lobed or ternately dissected. Flowering of *P. oregana* begins and ends earlier than *P. gairdneri* (the latter flowers from late July through late August).

Phenology: This species flowers from June through early August.

Range: *Perideridia oregana* is found from southwest Washington to central California. In Washington, this species has been found in Thurston, Clark, and Skamania counties.

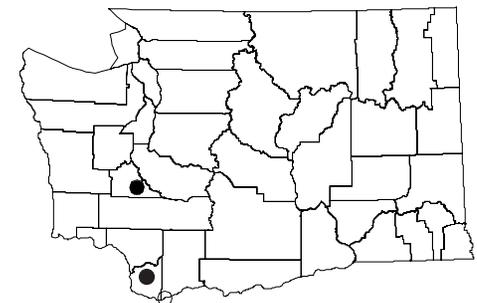
Perideridia oregana

Oregon yampah



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Known distribution of *Perideridia oregana* in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Perideridia oregana

Oregon yampah



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Habitat: This species may be found in prairies, moist or dry meadows (including balds), and oak woodlands, and has been found at an elevation of 380 feet (100 m) in Washington. Associated species found in Thurston County include Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), western buttercup (*Ranunculus occidentalis*), Virginia strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and long-stolon sedge (*Carex inops*). In Clark County, associated species include Roemer's fescue (*Festuca roemeri*), white brodiaea (*Triteleia hyacinthina*), common camas (*Camassia quamash*), California danthonia (*Danthonia californica*), silver hairgrass (*Aira caryophyllea*), and rosy plectritis (*Plectritis congesta*).

Ecology: This species has been found in balds and prairies of western Washington, which are critically imperiled.

State Status Comments: *Perideridia oregana* is known in Washington from less than five occurrences. Because this species was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time.

Inventory Needs: Likely habitat in southwest Washington should be investigated.

Threats and Management Concerns: In prairie sites, this species may be threatened with conversion to agriculture and residential development.

References:

- Chuang, T., and L. Constance. 1969. *A Systematic Study of Perideridia (Umbelliferae-Apioideae)*. University of California Press, Los Angeles, California. 53 pp.
- Hickman, J.C. 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley. 1400 pp.
- Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.