

Narrow-leaved Brickellia (*Brickellia oblongifolia* ssp. *oblongifolia*)

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

RANGE

- Found in North America from British Columbia south to Nevada and east to Montana (USA)
- In B.C., known from South Okanagan (Summerland to Osoyoos) and Similkameen areas, as well as near Midway; three of these locations are historic

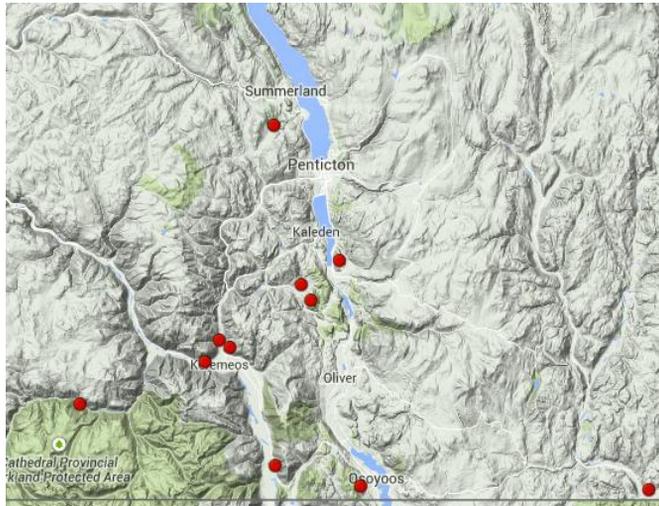


Figure 1 B.C. distribution of *Brickellia oblongifolia* (BC CDC 2014)

HABITAT

- Talus and dry, rocky slopes in grasslands and shrub-steppe in the Bunchgrass, Ponderosa Pine, and Interior Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zones
- Associates include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) and Richardson's penstemon (*Penstemon richardsonii*)



Figure 2 Dry, rocky slope in grassland shrub-steppe habitat near Keremeos, B.C.



Figure 3 Dry, steep rocky slope with abundant exposed substrate

LIFE HISTORY

- Perennial species that blooms from June into August
- Achenes mature and are released through the late summer into late autumn
- Does not reproduce vegetatively, so survival of a population depends on seeds
- Seed dispersal by wind, birds or small mammals

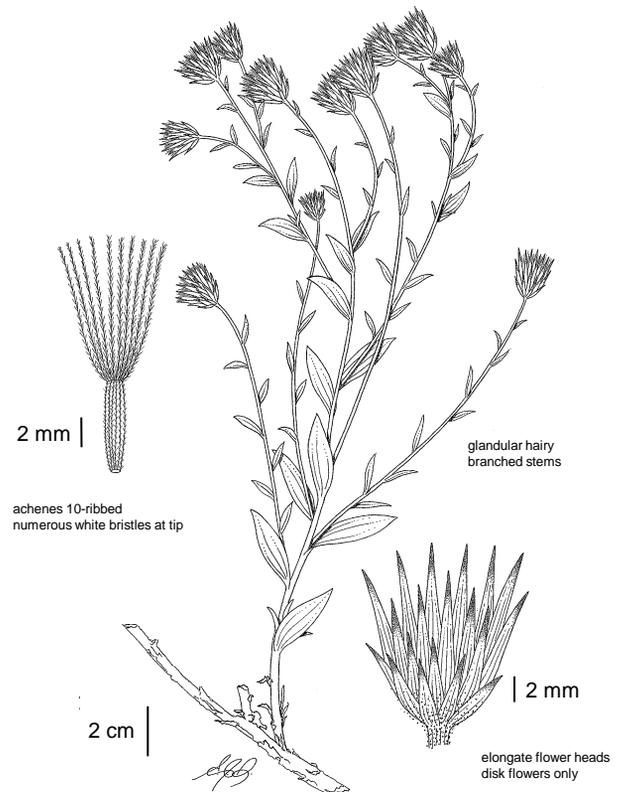


Figure 4 Illustration of *Brickellia oblongifolia* (Douglas et al. 1998)

Brickellia oblongifolia (continued)

DESCRIPTION

General

- Medium-sized, grey-green herb or sub-shrub
- From 10 to 60 cm in height, with numerous glandular-hairy, branched stems

Leaves

- Leaves alternately arranged along stems
- Leaves grey-green, from 1 to 4 cm long, lance-linear or narrowly elliptic, not stalked or short-stalked, usually lacking teeth along margins, glandular-hairy
- Basal leaves absent

Flowers

- Flowers arranged at ends of branches, forming an irregularly open inflorescence
- Flower heads elongate and composed only of disk flowers (small cylindrical flowers lacking distinct petals); disk flowers white or yellow, 35 to 50 per head
- Flower head bracts lanceolate to linear, 10 to 20 mm tall, graduated (of uneven lengths), with green and white stripes and abruptly sharp- to long-pointed tips

Fruits

- Achenes containing seeds, 4 to 6 mm long, 10-ribbed, glandular to glandular-hairy, with numerous white bristles (pappus) at their tips



Figure 5 Flowering plant with typical grey-green leaves and stems

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- Characterized by its gray-green colour, glandular hairiness, and elongate flower heads composed only of disk flowers (most members of Asteraceae have ray flowers with an elongated petal)
- No other plants could be confused with it in habitat



Figure 6 Close-up of (a) irregularly open inflorescence and (b) single elongate flower head composed only of disk flowers

GENERAL THREATS AND GUIDANCE

- **Avoid development in areas with known occurrences of *Brickellia oblongifolia* through project relocation or redesign**
- Protect talus slopes and dry, rocky slopes in shrub-steppe grassland habitat from disturbance and development, including exclusion of livestock and development
- Follow provincial methods for when and how to conduct plant species at risk surveys
- Follow provincial policy and guidance on how to avoid, minimize, restore and offset impacts to plant species at risk and their habitats
- Report any sightings to the B.C. Conservation Data Centre (cdccdata@gov.bc.ca) and FLNR Ecosystems Section (josie.symonds@gov.bc.ca)

REFERENCES

- B.C. Conservation Data Centre. 2014. <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/eswp/>
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