

Andean Evening-primrose (*Neoholmgrenia andina*)

Onagraceae (Willow-herb Family)

 Status: Red / Not listed ■

 Best Survey Time: May to Jun ■

 General Habitat: Upland ■

RANGE

- In North America, found from British Columbia east to Saskatchewan, and south to Wyoming through to California (USA)
- In B.C., reported from four locations in the south Okanagan Valley, near Osoyoos and the Nighthawk border crossing

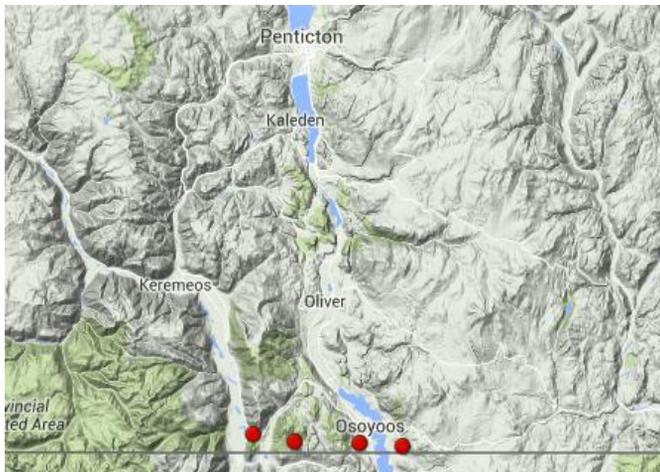


Figure 1 B.C. distribution of *Neoholmgrenia andina* (BC CDC 2014)

HABITAT

- Found on clay or silt-rich soils in seasonally moist habitats near depressions in shrub-steppe and grasslands in the Bunchgrass and Ponderosa Pine Biogeoclimatic Zones
- Associates include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), six-weeks grass (*Vulpia octoflora*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), woolly plantain (*Plantago patagonica*), and arrowleaf balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)



Figure 2 Shrub-steppe habitat near the Similkameen Valley, B.C.



Figure 3 *Neoholmgrenia andina* growing in seasonally moist habitat

LIFE HISTORY

- Annual species that grows each year from seed, germinating in spring before water evaporates from the soil, and flowering from May into June
- Mortality, normally in June, may be delayed by summer rainfall, triggering renewed vegetative growth with flowering and fruiting into late August
- Fruiting occurs through summer with seeds released from dried capsules
- Does not reproduce vegetatively, so population survival depends on seeds and the seed bank
- Seed dispersal probably by water or small mammals
- May be subject to annual population fluctuations due to varying environmental conditions

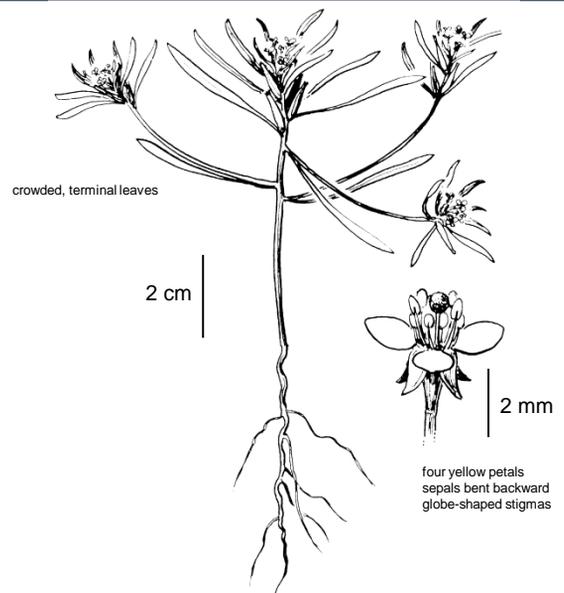


Figure 4 Illustration of *Neoholmgrenia andina* by Jeanne R. Janish (Hitchcock et al. 1969)

Neoholmgrenia andina (continued)

DESCRIPTION

General

- Often multi-branched, minutely hairy, annual plant
- Grows close to the ground, commonly up to 15 cm, sometimes taller

Leaves

- Leaves arranged alternately, narrowly lance-shaped, from 10 to 30 mm long, and crowded at the tops of the stems
- Lower parts of stem usually leafless

Flowers

- Numerous short stalked or unstalked flowers clustered within a crowded spike within leaves
- Each flower has four yellow petals, 0.8 to 2.3 mm long, turning red with age
- Sepals (4) reddish, 0.8 to 2 mm long, and usually bent backwards
- Stigmas (top of pistil) globe-shaped

Fruits

- Capsules 4-chambered, 5 to 10 mm long, 1.0 to 1.3 mm wide and fine grey-hairy
- Each capsule contains numerous smooth, glossy seeds, 0.7 to 1.3 mm long



Figure 5 *Neoholmgrenia andina* in flower, showing 4-petaled, yellow flowers, globular stigmas and alternate, lance-shaped leaves

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- Not easily confused with other plants in its dryland habitat
- Characterized by its small stature, crowded, terminal leaves, and 4-petaled, yellow flowers with globular stigmas
- Distinct from other members of the evening primrose family and small, yellow-flowered, 4-petaled species of mustard family (Brassicaceae)



Figure 6 Close-up of aging flower, with capsules beginning to form

GENERAL THREATS AND GUIDANCE

- **Avoid development in areas with known occurrences of *Neoholmgrenia andina* through project relocation or redesign**
- Protect shrub-steppe and grassland habitat from disturbance and development (including grazing and ATV exclusion through fencing) and consider restoration (including invasive plant removal) following professional advice
- 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/>
- Douglas et al. (editors). 1999. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia*. Vol. 3. B.C. Min. Environ., Lands and Parks, and Min. For., Victoria, B.C.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Neoholmgrenia andina Plant Species at Risk Fact Sheet developed by Josie Symonds and Wendy Pope. based on content produced under contract by Terry McIntosh and review comments by Brenda Costanzo