

Thick-leaved Thelypody (*Thelypodium laciniatum* var. *laciniatum*)

Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)

Status: Blue / Not Assessed

Best Survey Time: May to Jun

General Habitat: Upland

RANGE

- In western North America, from south-central British Columbia south to California and east to Idaho (USA)
- In B.C., known from numerous locations in the south Okanagan and Similkameen valleys

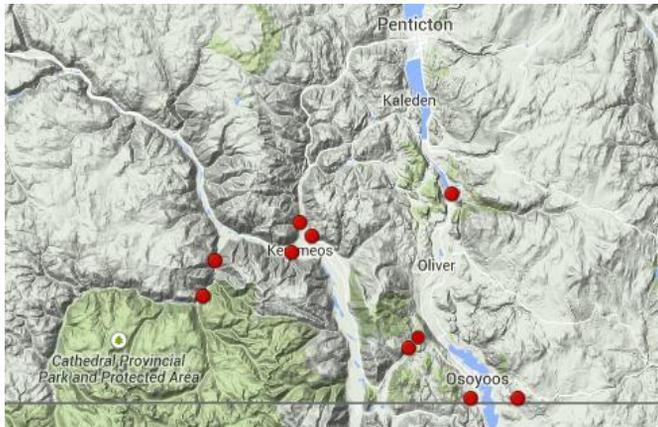


Figure 1 B.C. distribution of *Thelypodium laciniatum* (BC CDC 2014)

HABITAT

- Dry talus slopes and at base of cliffs and outcrop ledges in the steppe and lower steppe montane zones of the Bunchgrass and Interior Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zones
- Often found around base of large coniferous trees
- Associates include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), saskatoon (*Amelanchier cusickii*), mock-orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), snow buckwheat (*Eriogonum niveum*), and silverleaf phacelia (*Phacelia hastata*); often found in association with red-listed branched phacelia (*Phacelia ramosissima*)



Figure 2 Dry, talus slope habitat south of Oliver, B.C.



Figure 3 Group of *Thelypodium laciniatum* growing at base of rocky cliff near Oliver, B.C.

LIFE HISTORY

- Biennial species that can bloom in first and second years
- Flowering occurs from May to June (lower leaves dropping by flowering), with fruiting occurring later in summer
- Seeds released from long, slender, dried fruits
- Fruit develops from bottom of inflorescences, so stalk may have flowers and fruit at same time
- Plants turn brown and die as the summer conditions become dry and hot, but are still recognizable

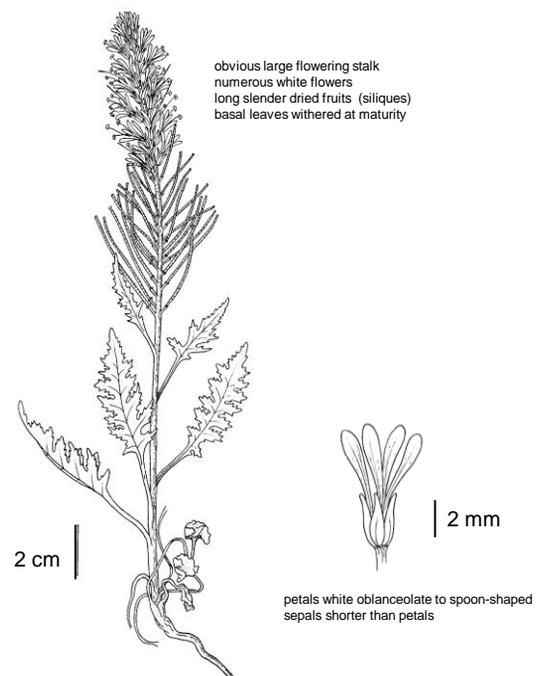


Figure 4 Illustration of *Thelypodium laciniatum* (Douglas et al. 1998)

Thelypodium laciniatum (continued)

DESCRIPTION

General

- Biennial hairless herb from taproot with erect, branched, solid stem
- From 0.2 to 1.5 m tall

Leaves

- Basal leaves in rosette, sometimes thickened, lanceolate or oblong to ovate; stem leaves lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, reduced upwards
- Leaves from 6 to 24 (up to 45) cm long, cut into narrow pointed lobes (lacinate) or small leaflets arranged on opposite sides of leaf axis (pinnate)
- Leaf edges toothed, lacinate or smooth

Flowers

- Flowers arranged in dense, long inflorescence that can be branched
- Flower stalks 2.5 to 6.5 mm long, straight or curved, and often flat at the base
- Petals white to purple, 6 to 20 mm long, narrow, oblanceolate (wide in middle, tapering to base) to spoon-shaped
- Sepals green-white to purple, 3.5-7 mm long

Fruits

- Long and slender siliques (2-carpel, fused seed capsule that splits along edges), up to 10 cm long and approximately 1 mm thick
- Silique stalks curved upwards with erect tips
- Siliques may be erect, spreading or pressed to axis



Figure 5 Mature plants showing live and previous years' stalks

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- Characterized by large size, large flowering stalk with numerous small white flowers at top and long siliques below, and leaves in a basal rosette
- Should not be confused with any other species found in talus and rocky slope habitat within range
- *T. laciniatum* var. *millefolium* is found south of B.C. and has hollow stems and linear petals



Figure 6 Close-up of dense inflorescence showing green-white sepals, white spoon-shaped petals, and long siliques in background

GENERAL THREATS AND GUIDANCE

- **Avoid development in areas with known occurrences of *Thelypodium laciniatum* through project relocation or redesign**
- Protect dry talus slopes in the steppe/lower steppe montane zones from disturbance and development, 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). 1998. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia*. Vol. 2. B.C. Min. Environ., Lands and Parks, and Min. For., Victoria, B.C.
- Klinkenberg, Brian (editor). 2014. E-Flora BC. <http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Thelypodium%20laciniatum>
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