

Short-flowered Evening Primrose (*Taraxia breviflora*) Onagraceae (Willow-herb Family)

 Status: Red / Not Assessed ■

 Best Survey Time: Jul to Sep ■

 General Habitat: Upland ■

RANGE

- Found in North America from British Columbia to Saskatchewan and south to Utah and Colorado (USA)
- In B.C., reported from three locations, including one in the western Cariboo, one near Price George, and one west of Osoyoos near Mount Kobau



Figure 1 Thompson Okanagan distribution of *Taraxia breviflora* (BC CDC 2014)

HABITAT

- Spring-wet depressions and swales alongside ponds in open shrub-steppe or grassland habitats in the Ponderosa Biogeoclimatic Zone
- Found in montane habitats elsewhere in the province
- Associates include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), woolly plantain (*Plantago patagonica*) and six-weeks grass (*Vulpia octoflora*)



Figure 2 Swale habitat adjacent to dugout at Mount Kobau, B.C.



Figure 3 Typical plant growing adjacent to a pond at Mount Kobau, B.C.

LIFE HISTORY

- Perennial plant that grows from a rootstock each year
- Initiates growth in spring, and flowers and produces fruit into late summer and autumn
- Does not reproduce vegetatively (from pieces of the plant or underground roots), so survival of the population depends on seeds and the seed bank

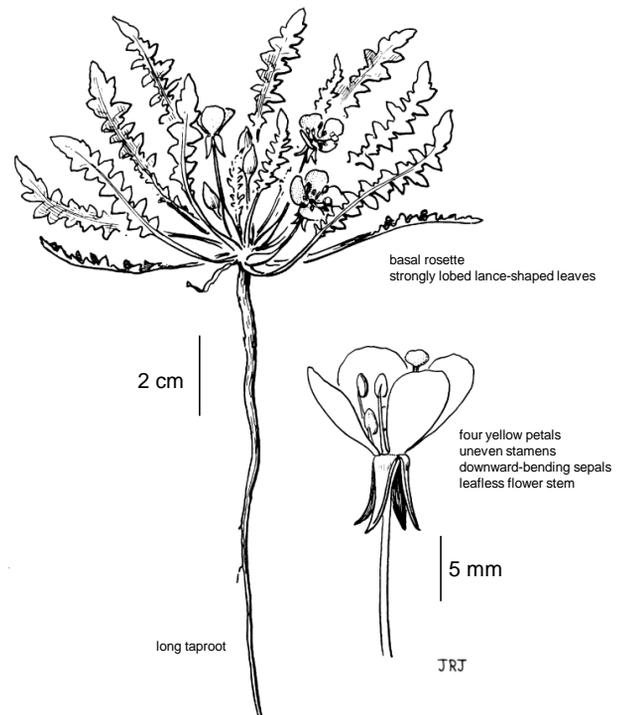


Figure 4 Illustration of *Taraxia breviflora* by Jeanne R. Janish (Hitchcock et al. 1969)

Taraxia breviflora (continued)

DESCRIPTION

General

- Tufted perennial herb from a long taproot
- Plants more or less densely appressed stiff-hairy

Leaves

- Leaves form a rosette at soil surface
- Leaves lance-shaped, 5 to 15 cm long, 5 to 15 mm wide, short-hairy, and irregularly deeply lobed

Flowers

- Flowers rise above the plants on leafless stems
- Petals yellow, 6 to 10 mm long, four in total
- Sepals bending down below petals, four in total
- Stigma globe-shaped and very slightly lobed
- Stamens unequal in length

Fruits

- Leathery capsules, narrowly egg-shaped, 1 to 2.5 cm long, more or less 4-angled, usually curved above, roughened and hairy



Figure 5 *Taraxia breviflora* in flower, showing irregular deeply lobed, sprawling lance-shaped leaves in basal rosette

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- Characterized by its basal rosettes of strongly lobed, lance-shaped leaves and lack of leafy stems
- At first glance, it may resemble a dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.), but can be easily distinguished by its flowers as dandelions have numerous ray flowers tightly arranged in heads (a composite)
- Should not be confused with any other plant in its habitat



Figure 6 Close-up of flower showing four yellow petals, sepals bending down below petals, and globe-shaped stigma

GENERAL THREATS AND GUIDANCE

- **Avoid development in areas with known occurrences of *Taraxia breviflora* through project relocation or redesign**
- Protect *Taraxia breviflora* habitat from disturbance and development (including exclusion of livestock and ATVs), 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/>
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