

***Baccharis pilularis* DC. *ssp. consanguinea* (DC.)**

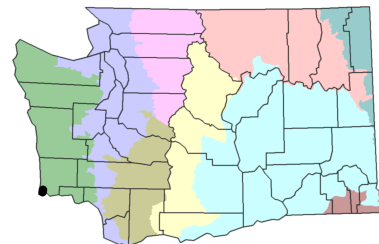
C.B. Wolf

coyotebush

Asteraceae - aster family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic

rank: G5TNR / S1



General Description: Branched evergreen shrub, 3-15 dm tall, with generally sticky leaves and twigs that are sometimes covered with minute, branlike scales. Branches are longitudinally grooved. Leaves alternate, dark green, thick, oblanceolate to obovate or subrotund, coarsely few-toothed or angled, often with 3 principal veins, up to 5 x 2.5 cm, and sessile or nearly so.

Floral Characteristics: Dioecious with disciform, unisexual heads; heads are numerous in small, sometimes leafy-bracteate clusters. Involucre 3-5 mm high, bracts strongly overlapping. Male heads with (13) 20-34 flowers, corollas 3-4.2 mm. Female heads with 19-43 flowers, corollas yellow, tubular to threadlike, 2.5-3.5 (4.5) mm. Flowers August to September.

Fruits: Hairless achenes 1-2 mm, with 8-10 longitudinal ribs; pappus 5.5-9 mm long, exceeding the corolla and involucre. Pappus of male flowers 3-4.2 mm, about equaling the corolla and involucre.

Identification Tips: The only member of its genus in the Pacific Northwest; distinguished by its shrubby growth form, maritime habitat, dioecious habit, and generally sticky herbage.

Range: Tillamook Co., OR, to southern CA, NM, WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Sea cliffs, bluffs, sand dunes, dry forests, and shrub thickets along the coast, particularly dry, open sites in full sun. Elevations usually 0 to 750 m (0-2500 ft), but sometimes reaching 1500 m (5000 ft). Known site elevations in WA: 5-30 m (15-100 ft). In WA *B. pilularis* is found in open sites among red alder (*Alnus rubra*), on rocky basalt sea cliffs, and sand dunes beneath the cliffs. Common associates include Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), shore pine (*Pinus contorta* ssp. *contorta*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), Pacific reedgrass (*Calamagrostis nutkaensis*), velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*), broadleaf stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium*), ocean-bluff bluegrass (*Poa unilateralis*), yellow ryegrass (*Leymus mollis*), European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*), and sweet vernalgrass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). In southern OR and CA, this taxon is common on bluffs and in oak woodlands, where it is a dominant shrub in coastal chaparral communities.

Comments:

References: Hickman 1993.

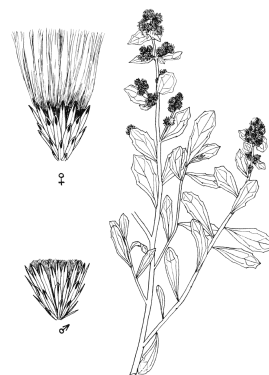
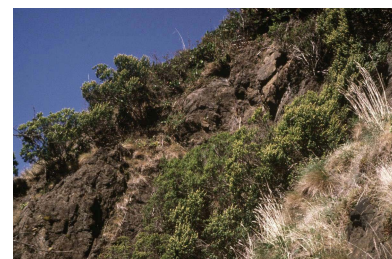


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