

**Date Prepared:** June, 2002

**Species Common Name:** Short fruited thelypody

**Species Scientific Name:** *Thelypodium brachycarpa* (Torr.)

**Suspected or Documented Occurrence on USFS Region 6 National Forests:**

Fremont National Forest: Suspected

Winema National Forest: Documented; According to the botanist on the Winema National Forest, Sarah Malaby, the historical population has not been relocated.

**Description:**

Biennial, glabrous or sparsely pilose towards the base; stems 3-15 dm high, simple or virgately branched, usually stout; basal leaves oblanceolate or spatulate, definitely toothed to deeply lyrate pinnatifid, 4-6 cm long; cauline leaves 1-5 cm long, narrow, acute, entire or toothed; sepals and petals white, the former linear lanceolate, acute, the latter linear, two or three times as long as the sepals; stamens exserted; inflorescence dense, racemose; pedicels stout, 1-2 mm long, divergent; fruit ascending, 15-30 mm long (Meinke, 1982).

**Look-Alikes:** *Thelypodium brachycarpa* can be distinguished from the closely allied *T. crispum* by the fruiting pedicels (Meinke, 1982). *Thelypodium brachycarpa* fruiting pedicels are shorter (1-2 mm) and straight, whereas *T. crispum* fruiting pedicels are longer (3-5 mm) and curved ascending (Meinke, 1982). *T. howellii* var. *howellii* occurs in Klamath County as well. It is distinguished by having longer pedicels (over 5 mm) and less dense raceme (Meinke, 1982).

**Habitat and Distribution:**

**Habitat:** The habitat for *Thelypodium brachycarpa* exists in meadows and open flats at lower to mid elevations (ca. 650 to 2300 m). It grows on sites exhibiting a broad range of alkalinity.

**Distribution:** *Thelypodium brachycarpa* is distributed in southern Oregon in Klamath County, and possibly Lake County (Meinke, 1982). Most of the land is under private ownership, however, a small habitat occurring on Miller Island Refuge is managed by the State of Oregon (Meinke, 1982). It is also found in the Siskiyou, Shasta, and Napa counties of Northern California (Meinke, 1982).

**Abundance:**

Rare

**Phenology:**

*Thelypodium brachycarpa* flowers in mid April to August, depending on elevation (Meinke, 1982).

**Habitat Associations:**

Associated species include *Chrysothamnus* spp., *Salsola kali*, *Atriplex* spp., *Sitanion hystrix*, and *Bromus tectorum* (Meinke, 1982).

**Threats/Potential Impacts of Management Activities:**

The current populations do not appear vigorous and are being reduced by grazing and off-road vehicles (Meinke, 1982).

**Mechanisms Providing for Species Conservation and Protection:**

A reduction or elimination of grazing would be desirable where *Thelypodium brachycarpa* exists (Meinke, 1982).

**Images of *Thelypodium brachycarpa*:** (Cal Photos, 2002)



Credit: California Native Plant Society



Credit: Charles Webber, California Academy of Sciences



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R6 SENSITIVE VASCULAR PLANT PROFILE

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**References:**

Cal Photos - University of California, Berkley, Digital Library Project. Retrieved on June 4, 2002. Available online at:

[http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img\\_query?where-genre=Plant&where-taxon=Thelypodium+brachycarpum](http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?where-genre=Plant&where-taxon=Thelypodium+brachycarpum)

Meinke, Robert J. 1982. Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Oregon: An Illustrated Guide. US Fish and Wildlife Service document.