

***Draba aleutica*** Ekman

**Brassicaceae**

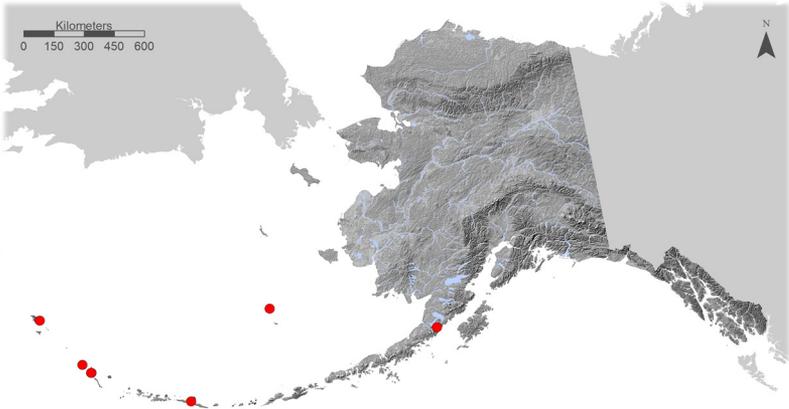
Synonyms: *Draba behringii*

**Global Distribution:** Endemic to northeastern Russia and Alaska.

**Alaska Distribution:** Aleutian Meadows, Bering Tundra.

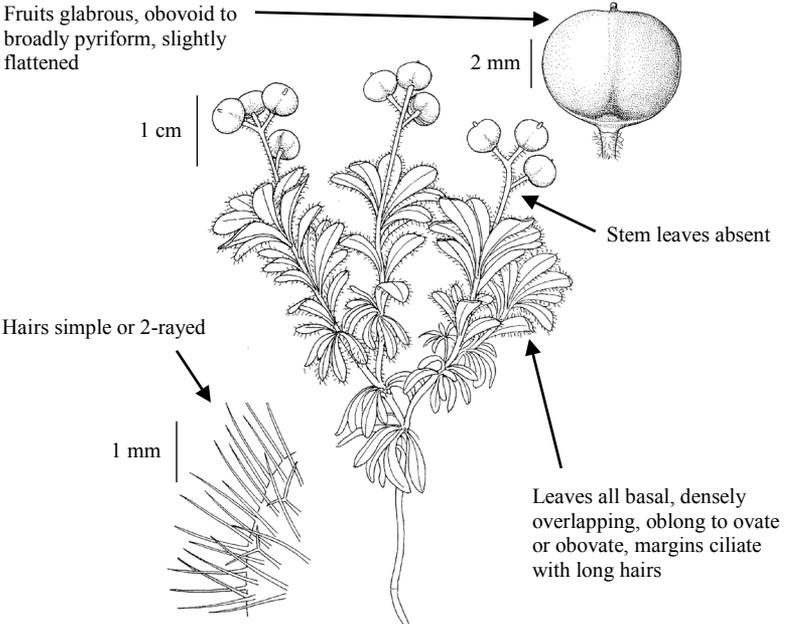
**Ecoregions Occupied:** Aleutian Islands, Alaska Peninsula, and Bering Sea Islands (St. Paul Island).

**Conservation Status:** S2 G2.



**Description**<sup>25, 93</sup>

Fruits glabrous, obovoid to broadly pyriform, slightly flattened



Illustrated by Barbara Alongi, Courtesy of Flora of North America Association

*Draba aleutica*

- General:** Perennial herb, densely tufted, cushion forming, from branched caudex with persistent leaf remains, some branches terminating in sterile rosettes.
- Leaves:** Basal leaves arranged in rosettes, densely overlapping, petiolated, oblanceolate to spatulate, 4 to 8 mm long, 2 to 4 mm wide, sparsely to densely pilose with ciliate margins; stem leaves absent.
- Flowers:** Scapes pubescent, very short; flowers arranged in racemes of 2 to 5; sepals oblong, glabrous or sparsely pubescent, 2 to 3 mm long; petals yellow-green to pale yellow, linear-oblongate, 3 to 4 mm long, less than 1 mm wide.
- Fruits:** Fruiting pedicels pubescent, straight, 1.5 to 4 mm long; fruits obovoid to broadly pyriform, slightly flattened, usually glabrous, 3 to 5 mm tall, 3 to 4.5 mm wide.



ALA 37949

**Ecology**

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- Elevation:** Known from 100 to 420 m.
- Landform:** Mountain slopes, solifluction slopes.
- Soil Type:** Gravel.
- Moisture regime:** Wet, often located near melting snow banks.

- Slope:** Occurs on slopes of unknown gradient.
- Aspect:** No information available.
- Vegetation type:** Alpine cushion vegetation, sparsely vegetated.
- Associated species:** *Cardamine bellidifolia*, *Chrysosplenium wrightii*, *Eritrichium chamissonis*, *Minuartia macrocarpa*, *Oxygraphis glacialis*, *Saxifraga aleutica*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*.
- Longevity:** Perennial, longevity unknown.
- Phenology:** Flowering May through July;<sup>93</sup> fruiting late July, probably sooner.
- Population estimate:** Six known occurrences in Alaska; population sizes unknown.

### Similar Species<sup>25, 93</sup>

Although *Draba aleutica* is distinct because its stems do not exceed its leaves, it can be confused with several other tufted or cushion-forming *Draba* species that occur in the Aleutian Islands and on the Alaska Peninsula. The table below describes the differences in morphology that distinguish *Draba aleutica* from superficially similar species.

| Species                  | Basal Leaves  | Stem  | Flowers                     | Fruits  |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Draba aleutica</i>    | Densely overlapping, sparsely to densely pilose with ciliate margins                | 0.4 to 4 cm tall; not exceeding leaves; stem leaves absent    | Yellow-green to pale yellow | Obovoid to broadly pyriform, usually glabrous |
| <i>Draba stenopetala</i> | Densely overlapping, pubescent with pubescent margins                               | 0.7 to 2 cm tall, exceeding leaves; stem leaves absent        | Yellow or purple            | Suborbicular, glabrous or puberulent          |
| <i>Draba lactea</i>      | Not densely overlapping, surfaces sometimes pubescent, usually with ciliate margins | 2 to 11 cm tall; stem leaves usually absent, 1 present rarely | White                       | Oblong to ovate, glabrous                     |
| <i>Draba nivalis</i>     | Not densely overlapping ciliate on both surfaces, margins not ciliate               | 2 to 8 cm tall; stem leaves present                           | White                       | Elliptic, usually glabrous                    |

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