Global Distribution: East Asia, Russian Far East, Alaska.

Alaska Distribution: Intermontane Boreal.

Ecoregions Occupied: Kobuk Ridges and Valleys. **Conservation Status:** S1 GNR; BLM Sensitive.



Description¹⁷³

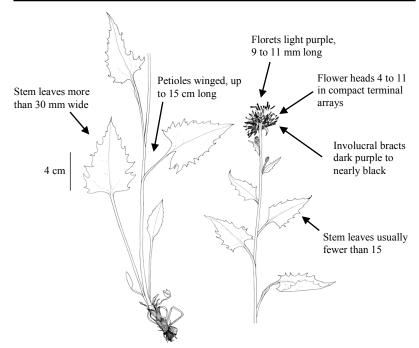


Illustration by Matthew L. Carlson

General: Perennial herb from rhizome; stems leafy, simple or with

ascending branches, 30 to 70 cm tall.

Leaves: Lower and middle leaves with winged petioles up to 15 cm

long; lower petioles ciliate; upper petioles tomentose when young, becoming nearly glabrous with age; leaves lanceolate to triangular, 6 to 13 cm long, bases tapered or lobed, margins coarsely and irregularly toothed; petioles and leaves reduced

above; stem leaves usually 15 or fewer.

Flowers: Flower heads 4 to 11, mostly arranged in compact terminal

arrays with solitary flower heads sometimes arising from upper leaf axils; involucres 10 to 12 mm tall; involucral bracts in 4 or 5 rows, appressed, dark purple to nearly black with slightly hairy margins; florets 10 to 17 per flower head, light purple, 9 to 11 mm long; anthers dark purple, 4 to 5 mm long.

Fruits: Achenes 3 mm long, pappi brown, inner bristles 8 to 9 mm



Ecology

Elevation: Known from 300 to 420 m in Alaska.

Landform: Subalpine slopes, ridges.
Soil Type: Organic soil, cobble.

Moisture regime: Moist.

Slope: Gentle.

Aspect: No particular aspect.

Vegetation type: Forb-heath meadow, low shrub meadow, tall alder;

grows in full or partial sun or shaded sites under alder

canopies.

Associated species: *Corydalis pauciflora, Dodecatheon frigidum,*

Equisetum arvense, Mertensia paniculata, Polemonium acutiflorum. Stelleria edwardsii.

Longevity: Perennial, longevity unknown.

Phenology: Flowering late June, probably sooner; fruiting August.

Population estimate: There is one known occurrence in Alaska; population

size unknown.

Similar Species¹⁷³

Saussurea americana, Saussurea nuda, and Senecio triangularis also have lanceolate to triangular leaves with coarsely toothed margins. The table below shows the differences in morphology and range between Saussurea triangulata and similar species that occur in Alaska. While other Saussurea species occur in Northwest Alaska, they lack coarsely toothed, broad, lanceolate to triangular leaves and are not likely to be mistaken for Saussurea triangulata.

Species	Stem Leaves	Involucral Bracts	Florets	Range
Saussurea triangulata	Usually fewer than 15; more than 30 mm wide	Dark purple to nearly black	Light Purple, 9 to 11 mm long	Northwest Alaska
Saussurea americana	Usually more than 20; more than 30 mm wide	Pale green on lower half, dark purple to nearly black towards tip	Light to dark purple, 11 to 13 mm long	Southeast Alaska
Saussurea nuda	Less than 25 mm wide, not triangular	Dark green and often tinged with dark purple	Purple, 8 to 11 mm long	Primarily Northwest Alaska
Senecio triangularis	20 to 60 mm wide	Tips usually green, rarely black	Yellow	South Central and Southeast Alaska

Saussurea triangulata

This Page Intentionally Left Blank