

SCOULER'S CORYDALIS

CORYDALIS SCOULERI

In Canada, Scouler's corydalis is found in only 20 sites on southwestern Vancouver Island.

Scouler's corydalis is a large plant, growing from 0.6 to 1.2 metres tall. It has a hollow, upright stem, with large blue-green leaves that appear on the upper half of the plant in early spring. In May to June, it produces clusters of 15 to 35 pink, showy flowers on top of the stem. These form small pod-like capsules containing shiny black seeds.

Scouler's corydalis spreads, in part, through underground rhizomes, sometimes forming a raised carpet in the forest understory. During the fall Scouler's corydalis dies back and is not as easily seen.

Don't confuse Scouler's corydalis with Pacific bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), which is much smaller (15 to 50 cm tall). Pacific bleeding heart has 5 to 15 drooping, heart-shaped, flowers that are pinkish-purple. Its leaves originate near the ground, have a more feathery appearance and the leaf segments are pointed at the tip. Seed capsules are linear and its black seeds have a white oil body at one end.

The federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) lists this species as "threatened," meaning that it could become endangered if steps are not

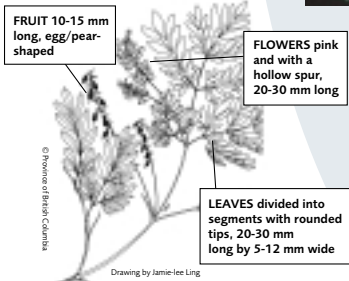


Photo by Caroline Allen

Photo by Arlene Sille

Dicentra formosa

Corydalis scouleri



FRUIT 10-15 mm long, egg/pear-shaped

FLOWERS pink and with a hollow spur, 20-30 mm long

LEAVES divided into segments with rounded tips, 20-30 mm long by 5-12 mm wide

Photo by Arlene Sille

Drawing by Jamie-lee Ling

taken to protect it. The Conservation Data Centre of British Columbia has designated it as "red-listed" species, recognising that it is a species at risk. It is included in Schedule One of the *Species at Risk Act* (Bill C-5).

RANGE Scouler's corydalis is found only in the Pacific Northwest, from northwestern Oregon to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington and to southwestern Vancouver Island. In Washington and Oregon it is found at more than 100 sites, but in British Columbia, it has been found at only 20 sites: 14 sites in the Nitinat River valley and northeast shore of Nitinat Lake, four sites in the Klana River valley and two sites in the Kissinger Lake area (west of Cowichan Lake). These sites vary in size. Seven sites contain less than 100 stems, six locations have 100-1000 stems, and the other seven have more than 1,000 stems. One of these sites has over 100,000 stems, spread over an area of six hectares.



Corydalis scouleri

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HABITAT Scouler's corydalis is found in moist woodlands, forests and streambanks in lowland areas. It prefers cool, wet, shady areas next to water — rivers, streams, lakes and roadside ditches, and is found growing under trees such as big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) and Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). Other understory plants often found in these areas include western swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) and devil's club (*Oplopanax horridus*). It occurs in the CWHvm1 biogeoclimatic subzone.



Photo by Arlene Sille

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS There are only a few known populations of this species. Until further inventory and research is conducted, the species is considered to be highly sensitive. **Please do not collect it, or trample or alter its habitat.**

The provincial government is working on a recovery plan for this plant — if you see it, please take photographs, make a sketch, and keep accurate notes on where you found it (including a GPS location, if you can), and provide this information to the Conservation Data Centre in Victoria, srmwww.gov.bc.ca/cdc.

Scouler's Corydalis Fact Sheet, first in a series of "Threatened Species" Fact Sheets for the Biodiversity Branch of the **Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection**