

## Grimy ivesia (*Ivesia rhypara* var. *rhypara*)



### ENDANGERED



Flowers (left), habit (center), and habitat (right) of grimy ivesia. Photos by Tom Kaye. If downloading images from this website, please credit the photographer.

### Family

Rosaceae

### Plant description

Long-lived perennial with a low, spreading growth form, 5-15 cm long. Most leaves are basal and compound with 5-15 pairs of overlapping leaflets which are further divided into 3 to 5 segments each. Leaves are densely hairy but not glandular. Inflorescences are erect before flowering but then become prostrate. Flowers are small with white to pale yellow petals 0.8 to 1.5 mm long.

### Distinguishing characteristics

The non-glandular leaves and paler flowers separate this species from other closely related ivesias. The other variety in this species, *Ivesia rhypara* var. *shellyi*, is slightly smaller and grows in depressions on large boulders. *Ivesia rhypara* var. *rhypara* grows in shallow, ashy soils.

### Habitat

Populations are found on either light colored ash-tuff or on outcrops of volcanic ash deposited with riverbed gravels. Habitat is very dry and relatively barren with no canopy cover. Common associated species include *Gilia congesta*, *Sitanion hystrix*, *Scutellaria nana*, and *Eriophyllum lanatum*.

### Range

Southeast Oregon and northern Nevada

### Oregon counties

Lake, Malheur

### Federal status

Species of Concern

**Threats**

Off-road vehicles, grazing, mining

**Did you know?**

The species and varietal name, *rhypara*, translates to dirty or grimy in Greek. This not only describes the appearance of the plant in its native habitat but also was chosen to honor the co-discoverer of the plant, James W. Grimes.

**References**

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