

Viola pedatifida

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Scientific Name : *Viola pedatifida*

Author : G. Don

Common Name : Prairie Violet



Close up of *Viola pedatifida* by Steve Olson.



Close up of *Viola pedatifida* by Susan Spackman Panjabi.

Taxonomy

Family :

Violaceae (violet family)

Rank And Status

Global Rank : G5

State Rank : S2

State Rank Reason :

There are over 30 occurrences within 13 counties in Colorado (USA), however, about 25% of the occurrences are considered historical. The occupied area documented for many of the occurrences is quite small. Rapid development along the Front Range is currently threatening this species and its habitat. Imminent threats from grazing and residential developments include invasive pasture grasses, hydrological manipulations for flood control, cattle, roads and ditches.

U.S. Endangered Species Act : -

Colorado Threatened and Endangered List : -

Other Status : -

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Description and Phenology

General Description:

Plants perennial, acaulescent, not stoloniferous, 5-30 cm tall; rhizome thick, fleshy. Leaves basal, 2-11, ascending to erect, 5-9-lobed; stipules linear-lanceolate, margins entire, apex acute; petiole 3-16 cm, pubescent; blade similar in width and shape, lobes lanceolate, spatulate, falcate, or linear, 1-7 × 2-8 cm, base truncate to reniform, margins entire, ciliate, apex acute to obtuse, mucronulate, surfaces pubescent, hairs sometimes concentrated on veins. Peduncles erect, 5-18 cm, glabrous or pubescent. Flowers: sepals lanceolate to ovate, margins ciliate or eciliate, auricles 1-2 mm; petals light to soft reddish violet on both surfaces, lower 3 white basally, dark violet-veined, lateral 2 and lowest usually bearded, lowest 10-25 mm, spur same color as petals, gibbous, 2-3 mm; style head beardless. Capsules ellipsoid, 10-15 mm, glabrous. Seeds beige, mottled to bronze, 1.5-2.5 mm (Flora of North America 2015).

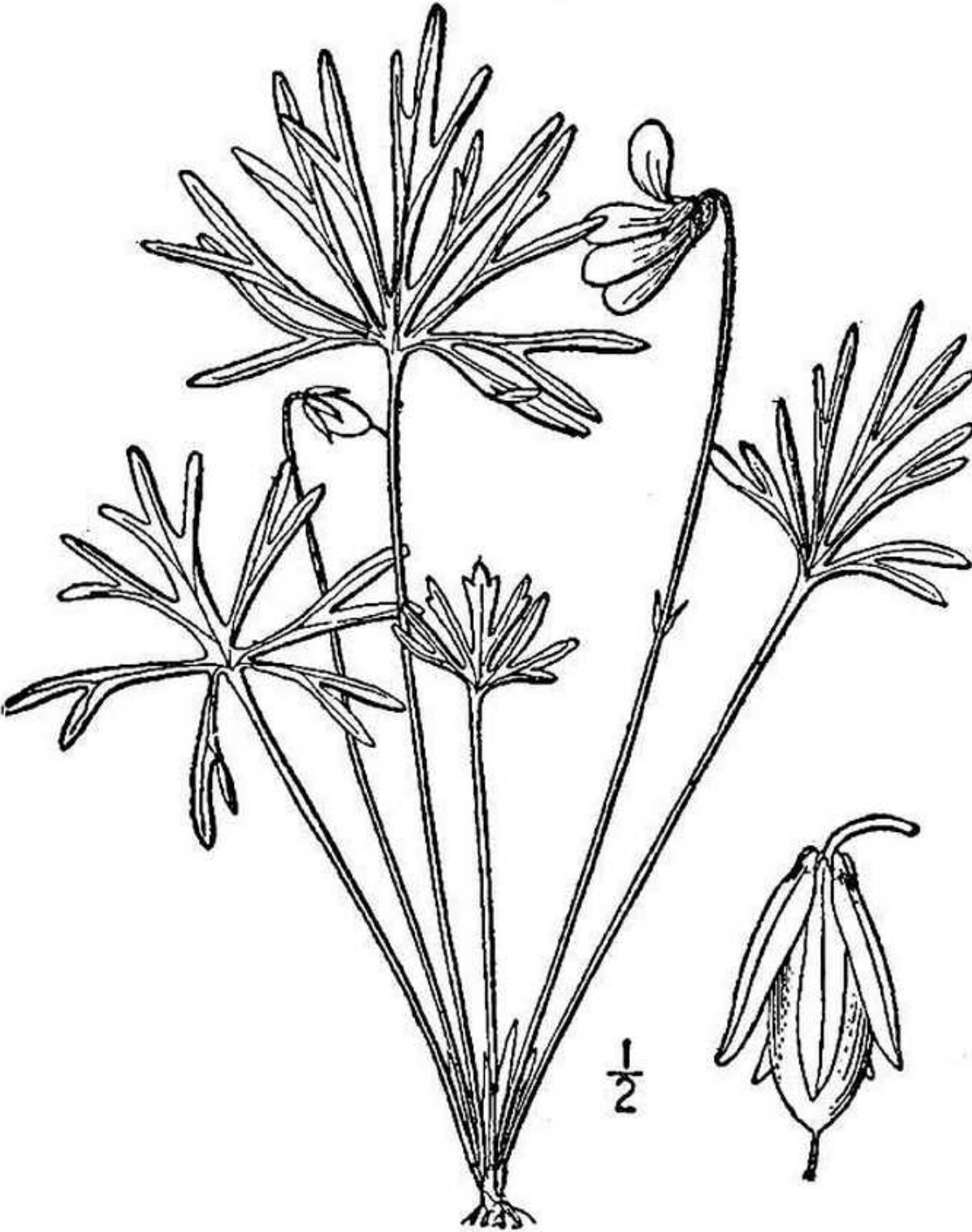
Look Alikes:

No other blue flowered *Viola* species in Colorado have leaves dissected into narrow lobes Spackman et al 1997

Phenology:

Flowers April to June (Spackman et al. 1997, Ackerfield 2015).

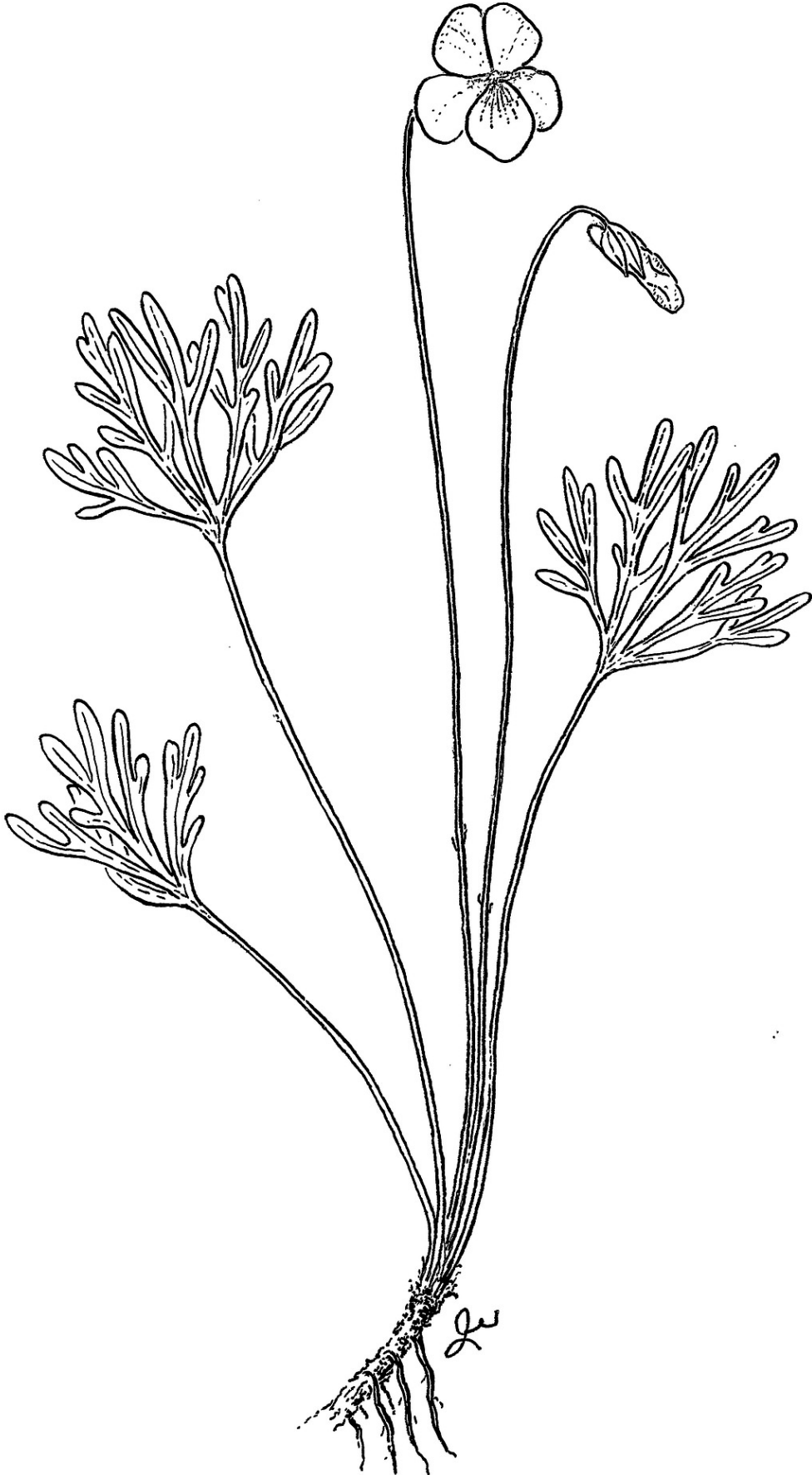
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Viola pedatifida from the USDANRCS PLANTS Database Britton and Brown 1913

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Viola pedatifida by Janet Wingate

Habitats

Prairies, open woodlands, and forest openings; rocky sites (Spackman et al. 1997, Ackerfield 2015). Associated taxa include *Pinus ponderosa*, *Muhlenbergia montana*, *Yucca glauca*, *Opuntia*, *Artemisia ludoviciana*, *Poa compressa*, *Poa agassizensis*, *Pneumonathe affinis*, *Stipa comata*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Koeleria macrantha*, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Scutellaria*, *Lithospermum*, *Pulsatilla ludoviciana*.

Elevation Range:

5,197 - 8,954 feet (1,584 - 2,729 meters)



Habitat of *Viola pedatifida* by Bernadette Kuhn



Habitat of *Viola pedatifida* by Bernadette Kuhn

Distribution

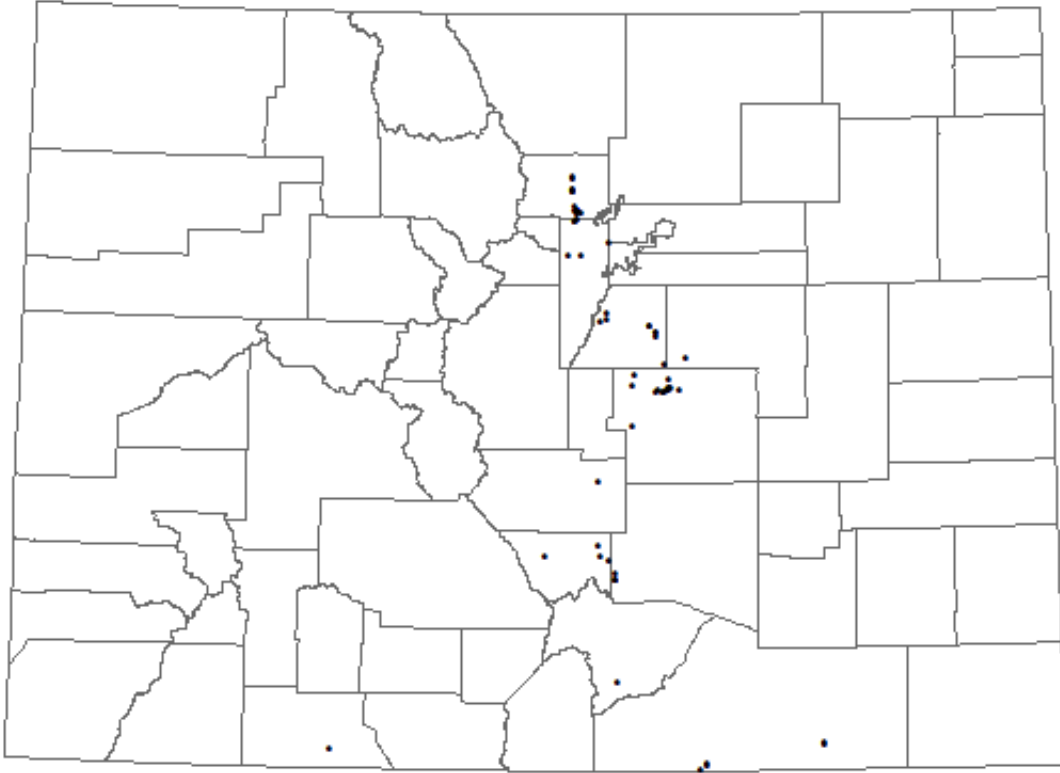
Colorado Endemic:

No

Range:

In Colorado, known from Archuleta, Boulder, Custer, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Huerfano, Jefferson, Las Animas and Pueblo counties, primarily along the Front Range and plains. This species can also be found in Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, USA. Globally, this species can be found in Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, Canada (USDA NRCS 2017).

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Distribution of *Viola pedatifida* in Colorado.

Distribution in Colorado by land status (COMaP v20211005)

Manager	Acres
CPW	55.84 acres
Local	833.17 acres
Misc. Federal	218.02 acres
Private	9691.09 acres
SLB	8.11 acres
USFS	983.84 acres

Threats and Management Issues

Rapid development along the Front Range may threaten this species and its habitat. Imminent threats from invasive pasture grasses, hydrological manipulations for flood control, cattle, roads and ditches. Colorado climate scenarios for 2050 suggest temperature will increase by 3-7 F and precipitation may decrease or increase. The impact to any given rare plant habitat is likely to vary. Long-term monitoring that includes weather and soil moisture data is critical to understanding climate impacts.

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