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Tall Bugbane

Actaea elata var. *elata*

A member of the family Ranunculaceae (“buttercups”), this species was formerly identified under the genus *Cimicifuga*. Members of the genus *Actaea* are also known by the common name “baneberry”, a group of plants whose waxy shiny red or white berries are highly toxic and cause damage to cardiac tissue when consumed by mammals, but are not toxic to birds which consume and disperse the seeds through their droppings.



Flower head & seed pods Brian Klinkenberg



Close up of flower head & seed pods
Brian Klinkenberg



Leaves Brian Klinkenberg



Flower head Kym Welstead



Plant cluster Thomas N. Kaye



Close up of leaf & stem K. Welstead

Characteristics

Height up to 2 m. Plants feature large compound leaves and numerous (50 to 900), tiny white flowers clustered on branched bottlebrush-like flower spikes (racemes). The alternate leaves are divided into threes, with 9-17 lobed leaflets, each up to 18 cm long. The flowers of tall bugbane lack petals and instead attract pollinators with numerous showy white stamens. Each flower is surrounded by five tiny sepals. Unlike other members of the genus *Actaea*, fruits are green pod-like structures (up to 1 cm long) that remain on the plant long after flowering and split open in fall or winter to release about a dozen reddish-brown seeds.

Status

Global Status: G4T4

Provincial Status: S1

SARA Status: Endangered

BC List Status: Red (Candidates for- Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened status)

Resources

[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

E-Flora the electronic atlas of the Flora of BC

A volunteer-driven GIS-based biogeoclimatic atlas of the vascular plants, fungi, algae, bryophytes and lichens of BC.

Credits

First edition prepared in 2010 by Pamela Zevit RPBio for the South Coast Conservation Program (SCCP) with Matt Fairbarns, in partnership with: International Forest Products (Interfor), Capacity Forestry (CapFor). Original funding was made possible through the **Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)**

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Source URL: <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/tall-bugbane>

Links

[1] <http://sccp.ca/printpdf/96>

[2] http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/tall_bugbane_id_pamphlet.pdf

[3] http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/inv-rpt-va-ciel-eug-rose-med-ump-taxonomy-interim-report-2007-10-29_0.pdf

[4] http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/tall%20bugbane_prop_and_reintroduction%20salem%20oregon.pdf

[5] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[6] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[7] http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html

[8] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>

[9] <http://www.sfiprogram.org/>

[10] <mailto:info@sccp.ca>