

***Prosartes (Disporum) hookeri*, Hooker's fairy bells**

General Botanical Characteristics

Disporum hookeri, is a rhizomatous perennial herb that has a single upright stem. It can grow up to 2 feet high. The upper portion splits in a fork-like manner. Commonly, two creamy-white, narrow, and bell-shaped flowers hang from the tip of the branch. Flowers have six petal-like segments. Leaves have parallel veins and a dull hairy upper surface. The fruits are 4-6 egg-shaped, drooping berries.



Seasonal Development

Flowers from May to July. Berries turn red in late summer to fall.

Distribution/Habitat

In the Pacific Northwest, it is commonly found in moist wooded areas near streams. It grows in moist coniferous or mixed forests at low elevations. It is common in the western United States, extending from central Oregon's Coast Range and the Cascades to the north, through Washington and British Columbia, and to northwestern Montana and northeastern Oregon avoiding the dry Columbia River Basin.

Interesting Facts

- Other common names include: "Drops of Gold", and "Oregon's Fairy Bells".
- It is considered to be an endangered species in the state of Michigan.

References

USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region, Fairy-Bells-CA.pdf, November 2002,
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/tes/ca-overview/docs/Fairy-Bells-CA.pdf>

Photo from William Ashworth, November 2002,
<http://id.mind.net/~ashworth/Dscn0562.jpg>