

# Don't Step On Me!



Bearded Owl-clover has to flower, be pollinated, and set seed every year in order to survive, so any trampling is a major threat to this endangered species.

**Please stay in designated areas!**

Incredibly, in Canada, Bearded Owl-clover only lives in seven places, and this location is one of them! The plant is also found in Oak Bay and surrounding islands. You can help this tiny, rare, and specialized plant by staying out of the fenced area. Watch for it in the spring, along with the other plants and animals that make these Coastal Bluff habitats their home.

The areas of shallow soil that this endangered species lives in look very different at different times of year, but the plant is vulnerable to damage from trampling no matter what season you visit.

Summer  
(dry)

Courtesy of  
Darren Copley

## A Special Place: Coastal Bluff Ecosystems

Wind-swept rocky shorelines that are influenced by their proximity to the ocean are called Coastal Bluff Ecosystems. If soil is present, it only occurs in pockets and in cracks and crevices, so the plants and animals in this ecosystem are adapted to these harsh conditions.

Coastal Bluff ecosystems only make up <1% of the entire region.

99.1% Entire  
CRD Landbase



## Bearded Owl-clover (*Triphysaria versicolor ssp. versicolor*)

A critically endangered plant lives here. It is small so you may not notice it. The Bearded Owl-clover is one of several rare species that live in a specialized habitat found in Coastal Bluff areas of Saanich called "vernal pools", where small pools of water form temporarily but dry up by summer. Bearded Owl-clover has an interesting biology. It is known as a *hemiparasite* – it steals nutrients and water from neighbouring plants, but can also make its own nutrition through photosynthesis.



3 to 35cm  
(1" to 13")



Courtesy of Aqua-Tex

Winter (wet)

Spring (flower)

Courtesy of Aqua-Tex



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