

**Boraginaceae**

Distribution: Endemic to the upper Yukon River and the Nabesna River of Interior Alaska; possibly disjunct at one locality to eastern Chukotka (as *C. spiculifera*).

Habitat: Steep, dry, unstable, south-facing, calcareous rubble slopes and at the margins of sparsely vegetated grasslands. From 825 - 2,200 ft. elevation (Yukon River); 4,000 - 4,500 ft. elevation (Nabesna River).

Similar Species: This is the only cryptantha native to Alaska and it is unlikely to be confused with any other species. Leaves of non-flowering plants of *Lesquerella arctica* (Wormskj.) S.Wats. are superficially similar but differ in their distinctive stellate pubescence. The closely related *C. spiculifera* (Piper) Payson (from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon) differs in having abundant pustulate hairs on both surfaces of the leaves.

Notes: Flowering late May to early June.

References: Batten et al. 1979; Cody 1996; Higgins 1969, 1971; Hultén 1968; Murray 1981c; Murray and Lipkin 1987; Parker 1995.



Closeup of Cryptantha shackletteana

photo by C. Parker

