



Brassicaceae

Distribution: Restricted to sites near Post Lake and Farewell Mountain in the western Alaska Range, and several sites in the southernmost Kuskokwim Mountains.

Habitat: Steep, sparsely vegetated, unstable alpine screes from 2,000 - 5,500 ft. elevation. Reportedly found on both calcareous and non-calcareous sites. Commonly associated with *Papaver mcconnellii* (= *P. denalii*), *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *Epilobium latifolium*, *Arnica griscomii* ssp. *frigida*, *Aconitum delphinifolium*, and *Minuartia arctica*.

Similar Species: Clearly distinguished from all other Alaskan smelowskias by its pear-shaped fruits, stout, mostly simple caudex, and basal leaves that are deeply and pinnately lobed. *S. borealis* (Greene) Drury & Rollins has ovate to oblong fruits and basal leaves that are shallowly 3-5 lobed. *S. calycina* (Stephan) C. A. Mey has a slender, mostly branched caudex, basal leaves that are simple to pinnately lobed and branches that are erect in fruit (rather than decumbent or prostrate). Also similar to *S. ovalis* M. E. Jones of the Pacific Northwest.

Notes: Flowering June to mid-July; fruiting July to August.

References: Drury and Rollins 1952; Hultén 1968; Murray 1981d; Murray and Lipkin 1987; Parker 1994; Rollins 1993; Welsh 1974.



Closeup of Smelowskia pyriformis photo by C. Parker



Smelowskia pyriformis habitat photo by C.Parker

