

## *Cimicifuga elata*

Ranunculaceae  
tall bugbane



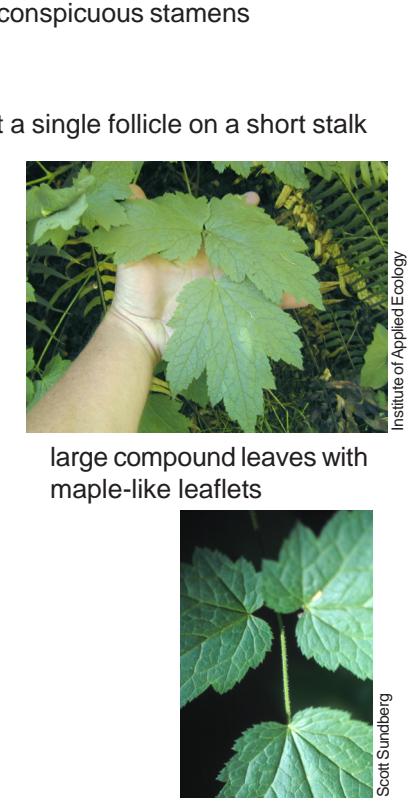
best survey times  
J|F|M|A|M|J|J|A|S|O|N|D



VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST (1964)  
Hitchcock & Cronquist,  
courtesy of University of  
Washington Press.



stems finely hairy, especially at  
nodes, glandular above (not shown)



lower side of leaflets hairy  
(upper side shown with hairs  
on stalk)

Tall perennial herbs from woody rootstalks. Stems hairy at nodes, branched from above, 1-2 m tall, finely pubescent, somewhat glandular above. **Leaves** compound, binate; leaflets maple-like, cordate-ovate, to 30 cm long, 12 cm wide, 3 lobed; lobes again cleft and serrate-dentate, sparsely to densely hairy beneath. **Inflorescence** a panicle to 40 cm long, with leafy bracts and closely packed flowers; pedicels 2-5 mm long. **Flowers** numerous; sepals 3-4 mm long, white or pinkish, falling as flower opens; petals lacking; stamen filaments narrow, not petal-like. **Fruits** solitary follicles, oblong, 9-12 mm long, usually sessile, or with short stipe about 1 mm long, reflexed, brown, sharply beaked below the apex.

### Lookalikes

*Actaea rubra* ..... stems not hairy at nodes, lower surface of leaves nearly (western red baneberry) hairless, flower cluster shorter, fruit berry-like and red  
*Cimicifuga laciniata* ..... leaves densely pubescent, leaflets more deeply toothed, not (cutleaf bugbane) maple-like, flowers usually with some petal-like stamens, fruits of 2-5 follicles per flower, follicle stipe 3-6 mm long

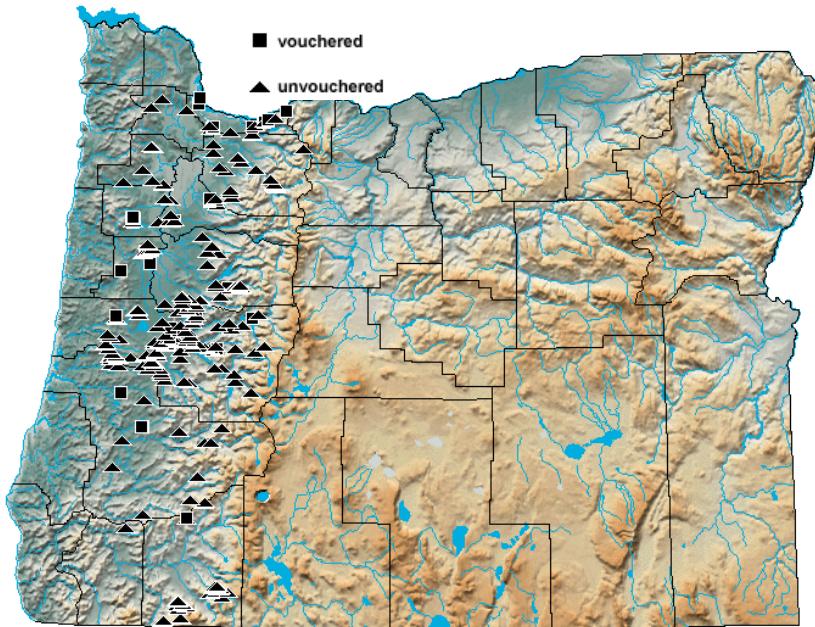
### differs from featured plant by

# ***Cimicifuga elata* Nutt.**

tall bugbane

PLANTS symbol: CIEL

September 2002 status Oregon:C; ONHIC:1



**Distribution:** West of the Cascade Mountains; Washington; southwestern British Columbia.

**Habitat:** In or at margins of moist conifer forests or mixed conifer-deciduous forests, usually on northerly aspects; in filtered light. Typically the dominant conifer is Douglas fir; bigleaf maple or red alder are often also present in the overstory.

**Elevation:** 50-5600 feet

**Best survey time (in flower):** (late May) June-August

**Associated species:**

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas fir)

*Acer macrophyllum* (bigleaf maple)

*Alnus rubra* (red alder)

*Acer circinatum* (vine maple)

*Corylus cornuta* (hazelnut)

*Adiantum aleuticum* (maidenhair fern)

*Prosartes hookeri* (Hooker's fairybells)

*Dicentra formosa* (bleeding heart)

*Polystichum munitum* (sword fern)



1 cm



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Published August 2019