Bastard toadflax

Scientific name: ***Comandra umbellata*** **(L.) Nutt.**
Common names: Bastard toadflax, Pale comandra, False toadflax

Bastard toadflax is a common perennial found throughout North America. It has narrowly elliptic leaves that resemble those of true Toadflax (genus Linaria). The small flower (6-8 mm wide) of this plant are borne in terminal or axillary clusters. Flowers lack petals but have 4 or 5 greenish, white or purple-tinged sepals. The sepals remain persistent on the end of the mature, globose, one seeded fruits.

Bastard toadflax is often semi-parasitic on roots of trees and shrubs. It does produce its own food by photosynthesis but obtains some nutrients from these other plants. Bastard toadflax can be found in well drained soils of sagebrush and mountain brush communities in our area.