



Photo by Joyce Gould, ANHIC 2009

TYRELL'S WILLOW

Salix tyrellii Raup

WILLOW FAMILY (SALICACEAE)

Plants:

Slender, erect or trailing, **mid to tall shrub, not colonial** but can spread by layering; branches red-brown, glabrous and flexible; epidermis flaking. Branchlets long, slender, red-brown (occasionally greenish-brown), glabrous.

Leaves:

Juvenile leaves yellowish-green or reddish, lower surface sparsely covered with white and rust-coloured, long silky hairs; mature leaves narrowly elliptic, elliptic, oblanceolate or obovate, glabrous, leathery and shiny with thick cuticles; largest leaves 15 – 65 mm long, length width ratio 2.3-3.3-4.4, leaf base and tips acute, leaf margins revolute, those closest to the stem entire, others with tiny, shallowly oblique or rounded teeth; both leaf surfaces with sparse appressed, long, straight, silky rust-coloured or white hairs; lower leaf surfaces glaucous (or glabrous) upper surface glossy. Petioles 1-16 mm long, not glandular; stipules leafy or minute

Flowers: Catkins flower before leaves emerge; floral bracts brown, black or two tone; white-hairy on the underside 1-3.7 mm long; staminate catkins to 16mm long, stout and densely flowered; pistillate catkins **densely flowered**, stout, ovaries **hairy**, greenish, pear-shaped, **beak long and tapering into style** 0.6 – 1.2 mm long, greenish, tawny, reddish or brownish.

Fruits: Capsules, 3.6 – 5.0 mm.



Photo by Adam Kosowan

Habitat: Open sand on **active sand** dunes, open sand in the lee of dune crests and at the edge of inter-dune wetlands; known from the Athabasca sand dune system in Alberta.

Notes: Can be distinguished from *Salix planifolia* Pursh by the presence of **abundant stomata on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces**. *S. planifolia* only has stomata on the upper leaf surface if at all.

Taxonomy revised from *Salix planifolia* Pursh subsp. *tyrellii* (Raup) Argus

Known from Alberta, Saskatchewan, NWT and Nunavut (NA range map shown is outdated).

References:

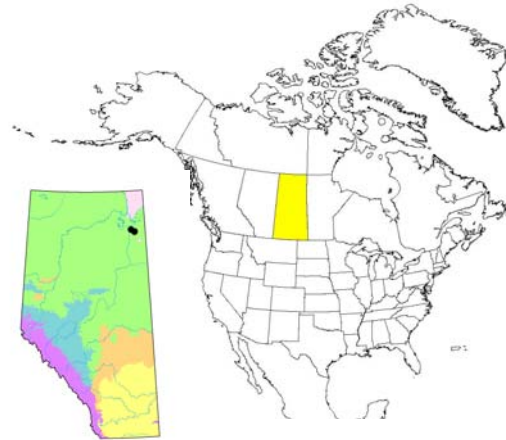
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