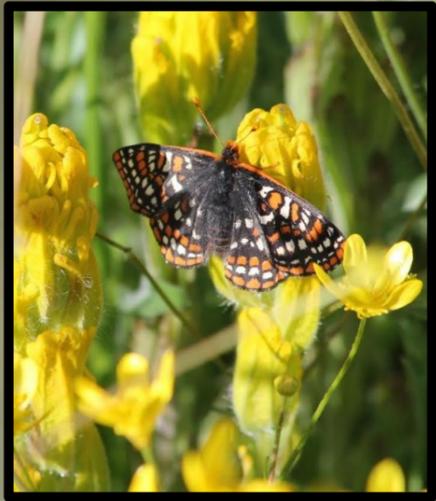


Evaluating three host plants for a rare butterfly



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Taylor's checkerspot is an endangered butterfly endemic to grasslands in the Pacific Northwest. Its caterpillars feed on three host species:



Harsh paintbrush is a native, historically-used host for Taylor's checkerspot.

Golden paintbrush is a threatened species occasionally used by Taylor's checkerspot. Due to its rarity we know little about its suitability as a host.



Lance-leaf plantain is an exotic species that has become very common and is now widely used as a checkerspot host.

The effects of these species on the caterpillars are mostly unknown. Is one a better food source than the others? To help inform recovery efforts, I am placing eggs on each host species in the field and tracking the caterpillars as they feed and grow.