

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

AMERORCHIS ROTUNDIFOLIA
ROUND-LEAVED ORCHID
Family: Orchidaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None
Agency Status: USFS Region 2: Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1
Range Context: Disjunct
Wyoming Contribution Rank: Medium

Description: Round-leaved orchid is a low growing herb with a single green, glabrous stem 10-20 cm tall and a single broad oval or elliptic, sessile leaf 3-9 mm long. Flowers are bilaterally symmetric and occur in a loose to crowded terminal raceme. Each flower has 3 pinkish-white, petal-like sepals 6-11 mm long, 2 narrow upper petals, and an oblong, purple-spotted lip petal 6-9 mm long. The lip petal is deeply lobed at the sides and flared at the tip and has a narrow, slightly curved spur 5-6 mm long at the back. The fruit is a greenish-brown, upright capsule with many tiny seeds (Hitchcock et al. 1969; Fertig and Jones 1992).

Synonyms: *Orchis rotundifolia*

Similar Species: *Habenaria* [*Platanthera*] *obtusata* has 2-3 basal leaves that are distinctly petioled and flowers that lack spots. Species of *Corallorrhiza* lack green leaves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers June-July. Fruits July-August.

Distribution: Newfoundland to Western Alaska, south to New York, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana and Wyoming (Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 2002). In Wyoming it is in the Clarks Fork Valley in Park County.



Above: *Amerorchis rotundifolia* by Jennifer Whipple

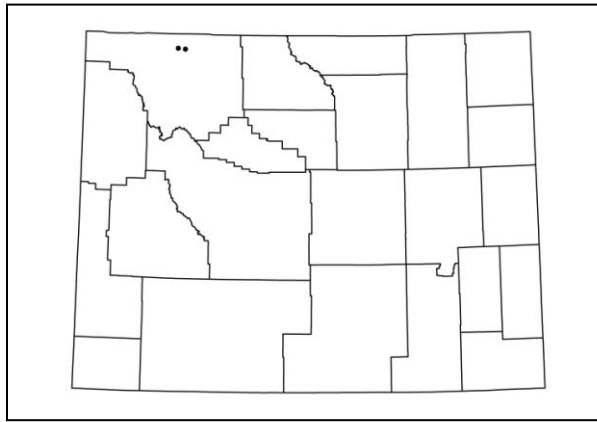
Habitat: Mossy, moist seepage areas in conifer forests, often associated with white spruce, horsetails, sedges and rushes (Fertig et al. 1994). Wyoming populations occur at 6600-6880 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 extant occurrences in the state (most recently observed in 2004).

Abundance: The entire known range of the species in Wyoming is within an area of ca 5 square miles. Abundance is relatively small (several hundred individuals were observed in 1996).

Trends: This species may be in decline due to development in the vicinity of its habitat.

Protection Status: One occurrence is protected within the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area.



Wyoming distribution of *Amerorchis rotundifolia*

Threats: Threats include collection by orchid fanciers, removal of white spruce forest habitat, and grazing or trampling by horses or cattle.

Managed Areas: Found on Shoshone National Forest.

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