

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ANTENNARIA AROMATICA
AROMATIC PUSSYTOES
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S2S3
WYNDD Plant List: Regional Endemic
(Watch List)

Description: Aromatic pussytoes is a low, mat-forming, perennial herb 2-6 cm tall from a woody rootstalk. Stems and leaves are covered with dense, white, tangled hairs, and are glandular (sometimes obscurely so) which, when crushed, often smell like orange peels or citronella. The basal leaves are wedge or diamond shaped and 5-10 mm long. Upper leaves are narrower and often have brown, membranous tips. The inflorescence consists of 2-5 clustered heads. Involucre are 4-7 mm long and have loose, woolly, glandular, blunt-tipped bracts with brown or dark greenish, membranous tips. Individual plants are unisexual (Evert 1984; Marriott 1988).

Similar Species: *Antennaria media* has sharp-tipped, blackish-green involucre bracts and lacks glands. *A. umbrinella* has nonglandular, oblanceolate basal leaves and amber or brownish involucre bracts.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-early August.

Distribution: Regional endemic of southwest Montana and northwest Wyoming. Reports from elsewhere in northwest North America have proven to be false. In Wyoming, this species is known from the Absaroka,

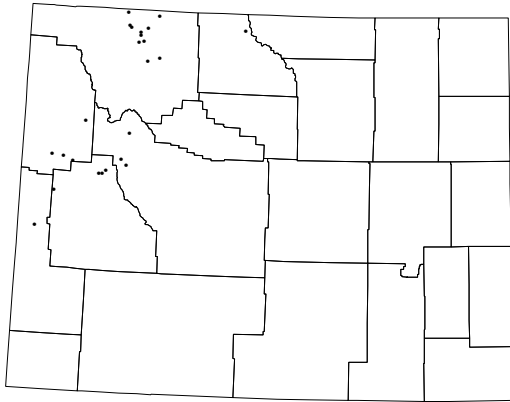


Above: *Antennaria aromatica* by H. Marriott.
Below: *A. aromatica* by W. Fertig.



Beartooth, Bighorn, Gros Ventre, Wind River, Wyoming, and Salt River Ranges, which include Bighorn, Fremont, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, and Teton Counties.

Habitat: Along sparsely vegetated ridges and summits at and above timberline in crevices, scree, and rocky soils derived from limestone at 4500-10800 feet.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *A. aromatica*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from over 27 occurrences in Wyoming, 21 of which have been observed since 1988 (most recently in 1999).

Abundance: May be locally abundant when found, although sometimes colonies can be mixed with other *Antennaria* taxa and censusing can be difficult.

Trends: Although trend data are lacking for most occurrences, there appears to be little evidence of decline in numbers or range.

Protection status: At least 10 populations are known to occur in designated Wilderness areas (Gros Ventre, Fitzpatrick, Absaroka-Beartooth, North Absaroka, and Bridger) and Grand Teton National Park. Populations are also found in the Osborn Mountain and Swift Creek research natural areas and in the proposed Bald Ridge and potential Beartooth Butte, Arrow Mountain, and Pat O'Hara Mountain RNAs.

Threats: Threats are minimal due to the ruggedness and inaccessibility of the species' alpine habitat.

Managed Areas: Known occurrences are found on lands managed by Bighorn, Bridger-

Teton, and Shoshone National Forests, Grand Teton NP, and the BLM Cody Field Office.

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