ANTENNARIA FLAGELLARIS
STOLONIFEROUS PUSSYTOES
Family: Asteraceae

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

Heritage Rank:
Global: G5? State: S1S2
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (low conservation priority)

Description: Stoloniferous pussytoes is a short-lived, closely silky-pubescent perennial herb with sparsely leafy stems 1-3.5 cm tall. Plants spread by slender, naked, purplish stolons up to 15 cm long and tipped by a compact, leafy bud. Leaves are mostly basal, linear, 1-3 cm long, and up to 2 mm wide. The inflorescence consists of a single, terminal head on a short stem that barely exceeds the basal rosette. Staminate plants have broad involucres 4-7 mm long with brownish, membranous tips, while pistillate plants have more narrow involucres that are 7-13 mm long with a brown or reddish tinge (individual plants are unisexual). The fruit is a hairy achene with small, nipple-like projections on its surface (Dorn 1992, Cronquist 1994, Bayer 1993).

Similar Species: Antennaria dimorpha forms compact mats and lacks filiform stolons. A. monocephala has a solitary flowering head borne on an erect stem (often at least 5 cm tall and well-exceeding the basal rosette) and lacks filiform stolons (Dorn 1992). All other Antennaria species in Wyoming have 2 or more flowering heads.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May to July (occasionally to August)

Distribution: Occurs from central Washington and Oregon to northern California, Nevada, and southwest Idaho, with disjunct populations in northwest Wyoming. Wyoming populations occur in the Absaroka Range and Yellowstone Plateau (Park and Teton counties).

Habitat: This species inhabits seasonally dry basins, sagebrush meadows, and other open areas (Bayer 1993). Wyoming populations occur at 7500-9900 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 6 extant occurrences in Wyoming, (3 of which are from the same general vicinity along the North Fork Shoshone River drainage). All of these populations have been observed between 1979-1989. Also known from 1 historical record (1885) in Yellowstone National Park.

Abundance: No population estimates have been made at any of the known sites. Individual populations may be limited in area and restricted to specialized microsites.

Trends: Not known.
Protection Status: At least 5 extant occurrences (and 1 historical record) are found in Yellowstone National Park and the North Absaroka Wilderness Area (Shoshone National Forest).

Threats: Not known, although small population size and specialized habitat could make it vulnerable to large scale disturbance.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by Yellowstone National Park and Shoshone National Forest.

References:


Author: Walter Fertig
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