

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

AQUILEGIA BREVISTYLA
SMALL-FLOWER COLUMBINE
Family: Ranunculaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None
Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

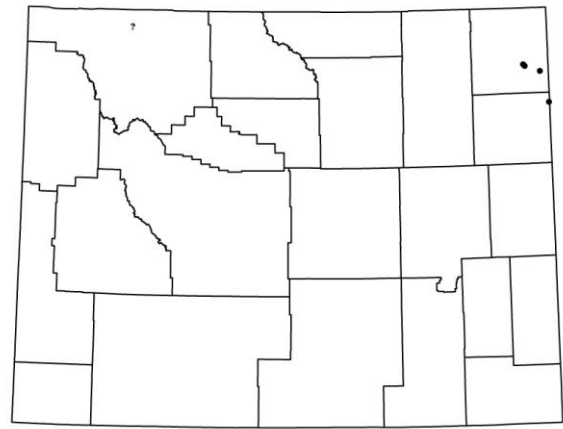
Global: G5 State: S1
Range Context: Disjunct
Wyoming Contribution Rank: Medium

Description: Small-flower columbine is a perennial forb with glandular stems 20-80 cm tall from a fibrous taproot. Basal leaves are long-petioled and twice-ternately compound (divided into 3's) with non-congested, rounded leaflets. Stem leaves are 3-parted and sessile or short-stalked. Flowers number 1-4 and are nodding at the tip of the stem. Sepals are dark blue-purple, hairy, and spreading. Petals are white to pale yellow with blue-purple, hook-tipped spurs under 10 mm long. Fruits are erect follicles 15-25 mm long (Porsild and Cody 1980; Dorn 2001; Whittemore 1997).

Similar Species: *Aquilegia jonesii* lacks stem leaves and has densely congested basal leaflets under 12.5 mm long. *A. coerulea* has flower spurs over 20 mm long. Other short-spurred *Aquilegia* spp. in Wyoming have yellow, cream, red, orange, or whitish sepals.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.

Distribution: Eastern Alaska to Ontario south to British Columbia and southern Manitoba. Disjunct in central Montana and the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. In Wyoming it is known from the Black Hills in



Wyoming distribution of *Aquilegia brevistyla*.

Weston and Crook counties and an historical report from the Absaroka Range in Park County (this latter record may be based on a hybrid individual involving *A. flavescens*, *A. formosa*, or *A. brevistyla*).

Habitat: Moist woods and meadows (Hulten 1968) and sunny, rocky slopes, chiefly on acid rocks (Porsild and Cody 1980). Wyoming populations are on moist, loamy soils along streambanks in coniferous and hazelnut forests at 4800-(8000) feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a four confirmed occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1982. An older, unconfirmed and possibly erroneous record is known from Park County.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be threatened by overcollection by wildflower enthusiasts and habitat loss.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Newcastle Field Office and Black

Hills National Forest. May also occur on Shoshone National Forest.

Canada. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Whittemore, A.T. 1997. *Aquilegia*. In: Flora of North America Committee. Flora of North America North of Mexico. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford. Vol. 3, pp. XX

Fertig, W. 1998. The status of rare plants on Shoshone National Forest: 1995-97 survey results. Report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig
Update Author: Joy Handley
Date: 2008-08-01

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Hulten, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. Stanford University Press. Palo Alto, CA.

Ladyman, J.A.R. (2006, August 23). *Aquilegia brevistyla* Hooker (smallflower columbine): a technical conservation assessment. [Online]. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/aquilegiabrevistyla.pdf>

Larson, G.E. and J.R. Johnson. 1999. Plants of the Black Hills and Bear Lodge Mountains. South Dakota State University College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences & South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Brookings, SD.

Payson, E.B. 1918. The North American species of *Aquilegia*. Contributions U. S. National Herbarium 20: 133-158.

Porsild, A.E. and W.J. Cody. 1980. Vascular Plants of Continental Northwest Territories,