

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ARNICA ANGUSTIFOLIA SSP.
TOMENTOSA
ALPINE ARNICA
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (low
conservation priority)

Description: Alpine arnica is a single-stemmed, 0.5-2 dm tall perennial forb with a short caudex. The stem, leaves, and involucre are conspicuously woolly-pubescent throughout. Basal leaves are narrowly lanceolate, 3-10 times as long as wide, and have 3-5 parallel veins. Stem leaves are opposite, sessile, and much smaller than the cluster of basal leaves. Flower heads typically occur singly, have a bell-shaped involucre 10-14 mm high, and 9-12 yellow ray flowers. Fruits are densely hairy achenes with milky white pappus bristles (Cronquist 1955; Porsild and Cody 1980; Downie and Denford 1988).

Synonyms: *Arnica alpina* ssp. *tomentosa*

Similar Species: *Arnica rydbergii* has glabrous to glabrate herbage. Other high elevation *Arnica* spp. in Wyoming have tawny pappus bristles, petioled, toothed, or heart-shaped leaf blades, and are not densely woolly. *Hymenoxys* spp. have dense tufts of white woolly hair at the base of each leaf and typically form dense mats.

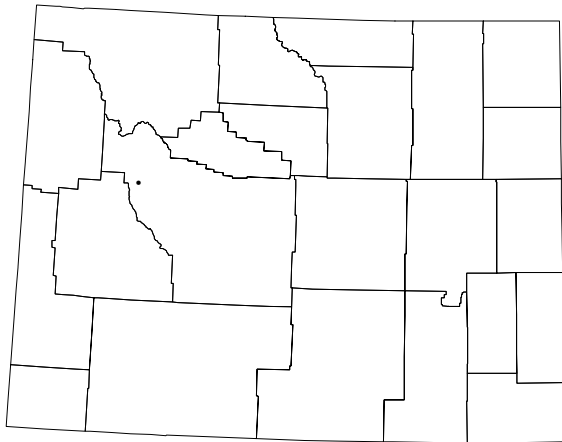
Flowering/Fruiting Period: Late July-mid August.



A. angustifolia ssp. *tomentosa* by W. Fertig.

Distribution: Northern Yukon south through the Canadian Rockies to southwestern Montana and NW Wyoming (also reported for C Colorado by Weber). In Wyoming, known only from the NE Wind River Range in Fremont County.

Habitat: In Wyoming, this plant is known from alpine cushion plant communities dominated by *Phlox pulvinata* on semi-bare, dry, calcareous sandy-clay soils covered by loose gravel or in *Artemisia scopulorum*



Wyoming distribution of *A. angustifolia* ssp. *tomentosa*.

meadows at timberline at 10,500 – 11,100 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single occurrence in Wyoming, first discovered in 1996.

Abundance: Population is locally abundant, but restricted to a specialized habitat occupying ca 5 acres.

Trends: Not known.

Protection Status: The single known occurrence is in the Fitzpatrick Wilderness Area (Shoshone National Forest) and is within the potential Arrow Mountain Research Natural Area.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: All known Wyoming occurrences are found in the Shoshone National Forest.

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