

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*ASCLEPIAS SUBVERTICILLATA*  
BEDSTRAW MILKWEED  
Family: Asclepiadaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4G5            State: SH  
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral  
Medium Wyoming Significance

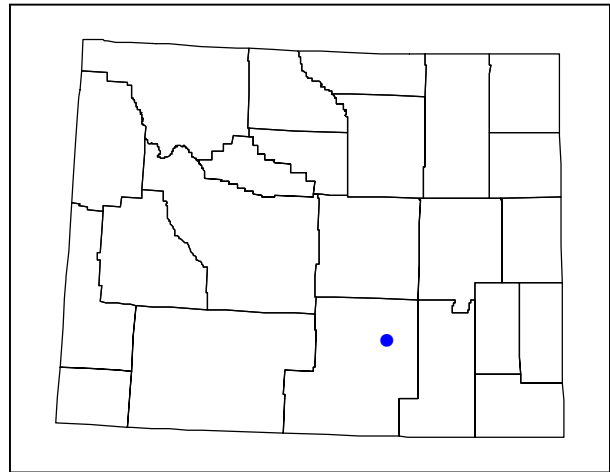
Description: Bedstraw milkweed is a perennial herb with a deep rhizome. The 3-9 dm stems are solitary to few, simple or sparingly branched, and hairless to sparsely hairy. The leaves are whorled or nearly so, sessile, and linear to thread-like (2-13 cm x 1-4 mm). The inflorescences are 6-25 flowered and found in the upper leaf axils. The flowers are 6.5-8 mm tall, with green or purple-tinged sepals, and white to greenish-purple tinged petals. The "eye" is white to greenish-white, and the horns arch over the anther head. The fruits are cigar-shaped (5-13 cm x 5-8 mm), erect, hairless to short-hairy, and smooth (Great Plains Flora 1986, Welsh et al. 1993).

Similar Species: *Asclepias verticillata* has leaves 0.5 to 2 mm long and a short, fibrous root system rather than a rhizome. *A. stenophylla* has mostly opposite leaves, is non-rhizomatous, and its horns do not arch over the anther head.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowering and fruiting occur from June to August.

Distribution: Bedstraw milkweed is found from Utah to Oklahoma and south to Mexico. There is one historical record in Wyoming from the Hanna Basin in Carbon County.

Habitat: Bedstraw milkweed grows on roadsides and in other disturbed sites at about 6800 ft.



Wyoming distribution of *Asclepias subverticillata*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single historical record in Wyoming, last observed in 1947.

Abundance: Not known; possibly extirpated?

Trends: Not known, last observed over 50 years ago.

Protection status: No populations are in special management areas.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: May occur on lands managed by the BLM Rawlins Field Office.

References:

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Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora,

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