

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ASPLENium TRICHOMANES-RAMOSUM
GREEN SPLEENWORT
Family: Aspleniaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (Low
Conservation Priority)

Description: Green spleenwort is a perennial fern with short, creeping, rhizomes covered with blackish scales. Leafstalks are 1-6 cm long, reddish-brown at the base, green above, and clustered. Leaf blades are 2-8 cm long, 0.7-1.2 cm wide, once pinnately compound, and glabrous. The leaflets are roundish to ovate and round-toothed. Sori are straight with a thin, entire, whitish indusium (Scott 1997, Lellinger 1985).

Synonyms: *Asplenium viride*.

Similar Species: *Asplenium trichomanes* has reddish-brown leafstalks. *A. septentrionale* has grass-like, linear leaf blades (Dorn 1992).

Distribution: Alaska to Newfoundland south to northern California, Colorado, South Dakota, Michigan, and New England. In Wyoming, known from the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, Gros Ventre, and Teton ranges in Carbon, Sheridan, Sublette, Teton, and Washakie counties.

Habitat: In Wyoming, this species occurs mainly on limestone outcrops located in Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir forest at 5800-9900 feet. It is usually found in crevices



Above: *Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum* by Jane Dorn.

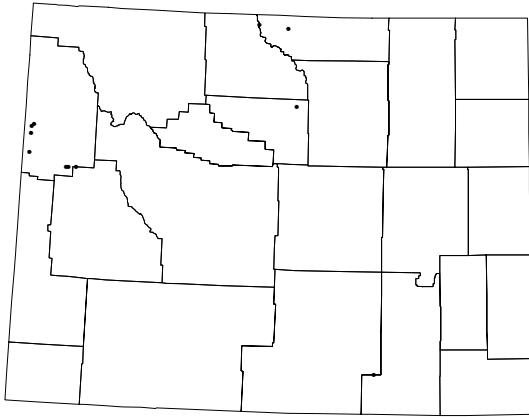
of north-facing cliffs in moist montane environments (Scott 1997, Penskar 1993).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 9 extant and 2 historical records in Wyoming. Seven occurrences have been discovered or relocated since 1985 (most recently in 1997).

Abundance: Individual populations are often small and highly localized, with fewer than 50 clusters of plants. Evert (no date), however, reports that this can be "the most frequently encountered fern of mesic limestone crevices in the Teton-Darby Canyon area" of the western Teton Range.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Three occurrences are protected within the Gros Ventre Wilderness Area (Bridger-Teton NF) and two are within the potential Tensleep Canyon and Tongue



Wyoming distribution of *A. trichomanes-ramosum*.

River Research Natural Areas on Bighorn NF. All other known populations occur on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be impacted by logging, trampling, or over-collection.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Bighorn, Bridger-Teton, Medicine Bow, and Targhee National Forests.

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