

*ASPLENIUM TRICHOMANES*  
MAIDENHAIR SPLEENWORT  
ASPLENIACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low conservation priority)

Description: Maidenhair spleenwort is a perennial fern with clustered fronds from branched, creeping rhizomes. Leafstalks are 1-7 cm long, reddish-brown to purplish, and have narrowly lance-shaped, black and brown scales. Leaf blades are linear-rhombic, 3-15 cm long and 0.6-1.3 cm wide and once-pinnately divided. Spore clusters (sori) are slender, ca 1 mm long, and covered by a greenish, opaque membrane (indusium) (Dorn 1992; Lellinger 1985).

Identification Comments: Leaf blades and stalks needed for positive identification.

Similar Species: *Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum* has green or yellowish leaf stalks. *A. septentrionale* has grass-like, linear leaves (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Reproduces by spores.

Distribution: Alaska to Newfoundland south to Arizona, Texas, and Georgia. In Wyoming, known only from the Granite Mountains and Laramie Range in Natrona and Albany counties.



Above: *Asplenium trichomanes* by Jane Dorn from Dorn and Dorn (1972).

Habitat: In Wyoming, this species is found in shaded crevices, ledges, and cliffs on granite at elevations of 7900-8200 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 extant records in Wyoming (last observed in 2000) and one historical record (last seen in 1939).

Abundance: Surveyed populations are extremely small, averaging less than 75 plants, and highly localized.

Trends: Not known, but probably stable in the Laramie Range. The one Granite Mountain colony has not been seen since 1939.

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

Threats: Threats probably low, although over-collection could be a problem.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Medicine Bow National Forest and the state of Wyoming.

References:

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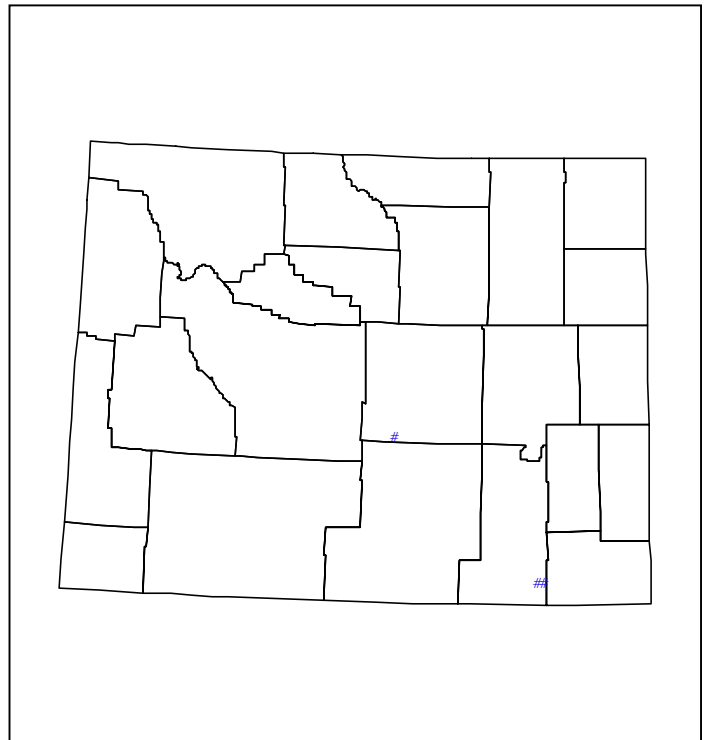
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Updated: 00-10-31



Wyoming distribution of *Asplenium trichomanes*