

## *Botrychium campestre*

PRAIRIE MOONWORT

Family: Ophioglossaceae

### Agency Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

US Forest Service: Region 2 Sensitive

### Heritage Rank:

Global: G3G4

State: S1

Range Context: Widespread/Edge; peripheral

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

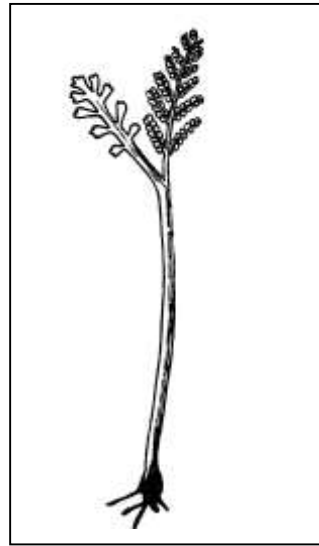
Description: Prairie moonwort is a perennial fern relative, about 6 cm tall with a single leaf divided into two dissimilar segments. The vegetative (sterile) segment is 1.5-3 cm long and once-pinnately compound with 4-6 pairs of linear to narrowly wedge-shaped, smooth-margined leaflets. The spore-bearing (fertile) segment is equal or only slightly longer than the vegetative segment and attached well above the midpoint of the leaf stalk (Fertig et al. 1994; Wagner and Wagner 1986, Farrar and Popovich 2012).

Local field characters: Mature specimens with well-developed, fully expanded leaves, are needed for identification.

Similar Species: *Botrychium lunaria* differs in having broadly fan-shaped leaflets that often overlap each other. *B. simplex* has the vegetative portion of the leaf attached below the middle of the leaf stalk, often near ground level.

Phenology: Late May-June.

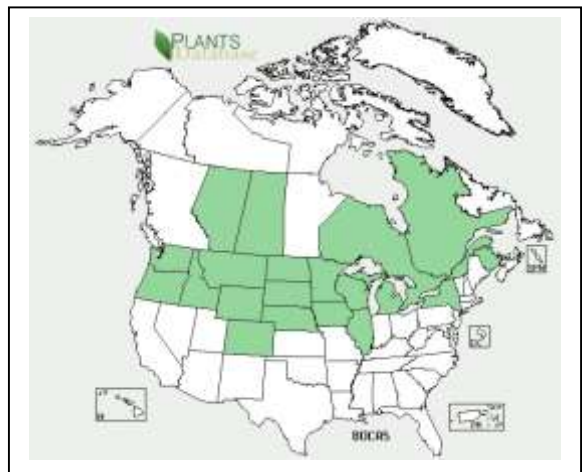
Distribution: Occurs in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec, and across most northern states from Washington and Oregon east and south to Illinois, Michigan and New York; reported to be concentrated in the Great Lakes region. In Wyoming, known only from the Black Hills (Crook County).



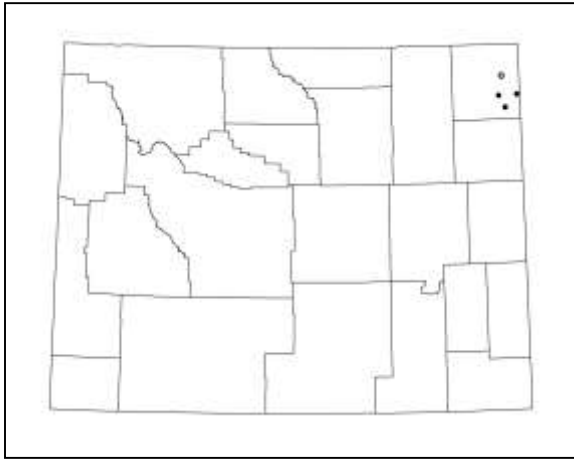
Left: *Botrychium campestre* by Walter Fertig from Fertig et al. 1994



Above: *Botrychium campestre* by Warren Wagner from Fertig et al. 1994



Above: Rangewide distribution of *Botrychium campestre*



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Botrychium campestre* from USDA, NRCS. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.



Above: *Botrychium campestre* habitat by Katherine Zackarchevics

**Habitat:** Prairies, grassy hills and forest openings (Wagner and Wagner 1993, Farrar and Popovich 2012). Wyoming populations are in sunny openings of wooded ravines and canyon bottoms, and partial shade of mixed deciduous and ponderosa pine forest on well-drained soils (Anderson and Cariveau 2003).

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from 3 extant occurrences in Wyoming (last observed in 2011), and 1 occurrence that botanists have failed to relocate.

**Abundance:** Unknown, but suspected to be low.

**Trends:** Unknown. Populations may not persist. One population has not been relocated since 1973, despite repeated searches.

**Protection Status:** All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use (including oil and gas development, recreation, and livestock grazing).

**Threats:** Unknown.

**Managed Areas:** Occurs on lands managed by Black Hills National Forest.

**References:**

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