

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

BRAYA HUMILIS
LOW BRAYA
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (medium
conservation priority)

Description: Low braya is a delicate, perennial herb often exceeding 20 cm in height. The pubescent stems have branched hairs and bear scattered, narrow leaves. The lower leaves are in a basal rosette and are often toothed, oblanceolate in shape, and have an obtuse apex. The grayish white flowers are contained in subcapitate inflorescences and have 4 sepals and 4 petals. The fruit is a minutely pubescent silique 12-30 mm long and 1 mm wide (Spackman 1997, Dorn 1992, Rollins 1993).

Similar Species: *Braya glabella* has white to purplish-tinged flowers, leafless stems, and stout capsules (Spackman 1997).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July to August (Spackman 1997).

Distribution: Alaska to Greenland south to British Columbia, Alberta, and Vermont, with disjunct populations in NW Wyoming and C Colorado. In Wyoming, known from the NE Wind River Range in Fremont County.

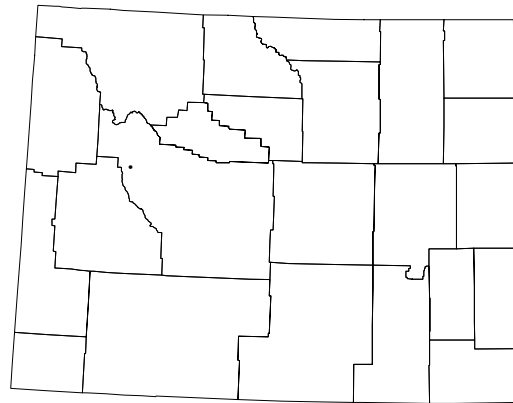
Habitat: This species inhabits barren gravel slopes and alluvial banks at high elevations. It is often found in disturbed areas on soils



Above: *Braya humilis* by Walter Fertig.

with sparse vegetative cover. Wyoming populations occur at 11,100 feet.

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



Wyoming distribution of *B. humilis*.

Abundance: The single known colony contains ca. 50 individuals in less than 1 acre of habitat. Additional habitat may occur in the vicinity.

Trends: Not known.

Protection Status: The single known occurrence is within the Fitzpatrick Wilderness Area and potential Arrow

Mountain Research Natural Area in Shoshone National Forest.

Threats: Threats low, although trampling could be a problem. Recreational use of this plant's habitat is low.

Managed Areas: All known occurrences are on Shoshone National Forest.

References:

Abbe, E.C. 1948. *Braya* in boreal eastern America. *Rhodora* 50: 1-15.

Colorado Native Plant Society. 1997. *Rare Plants of Colorado*, second edition. Falcon Press Publ., Helena, MT.

Fertig, W. 1996. Additions and deletions to the flora of Wyoming. *Castilleja* 15(4):6-7.

Fertig, W. 1998. The status of rare plants on Shoshone National Forest: 1995-97 survey results. Report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Fertig, W. 2000. Rare vascular plant species in the Wyoming portion of the Utah-Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregion. Prepared for the Wyoming Nature Conservancy by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Jones, G.P. and W. Fertig. 1999. Ecological evaluation of the potential Arrow Mountain Research Natural Area within the Shoshone National Forest, Fremont County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for the Shoshone National Forest, USDA Forest Service by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming.

Neely, E.E. and A.T. Carpenter. 1986. Size, structure, and habitat characteristics of populations of *Braya humilis* var. *humilis* (Brassicaceae): an alpine disjunct from

Colorado. *Great Basin Naturalist* 46: 728-735.

O'Kane, S.L. 1988. Colorado's rare flora. *Great Basin Naturalist* 48 (4):434-484.

Rollins, R.C. 1993. *The Cruciferae of Continental North America, Systematics of the Mustard Family from the Arctic to Panama*. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA.

Spackman, S., B. Jennings, J. Coles, C. Dawson, M. Minton, A. Kratz, and C. Spurrier. 1997. *Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide*. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Ft. Collins, CO.

Welp, L., W.F. Fertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine filter analysis of the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig

Updated: 00-11-24