

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*CEANOTHUS MARTINII*  
MARTIN CEANOTHUS  
Family: RHAMNACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Martin ceanothus is a non-thorny, multi-branched low shrub 1.5-8 dm tall. Leaves are deciduous, alternate, short-petioled, palmately 3-veined from the base, and green on both sides. Leaf blades are mostly 10-20 (rarely 30) cm long, 4-22 mm wide, and elliptic to ovate with entire or finely-toothed margins at the tip. The inflorescence is a cylindrical panicle 1-3.5 cm long on a short side branch. Flowers have 5 white petal-like sepals and 5 white spoon-shaped petals 2 mm long. Fruits are 3-lobed capsules that are fleshy and drupe-like when young, but dry at maturity (Cronquist et al. 1997; Welsh et al. 1993).

Identification Comments: Leaf size, venation, and margin characters are sufficient for identification.

Similar Species: *Ceanothus velutinus* has leathery evergreen leaves often 3-8 cm long with finely toothed margins throughout. *C. fendleri* has thorny branches and leaves that are persistently short-hairy below.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-July.

Distribution: Occurs from eastern Nevada to southwest Wyoming south to northwest Arizona and northwest Colorado. In Wyoming, known only from the southern Overthrust Belt and lower Green River Basin in Lincoln and Sweetwater counties.

Habitat: Rangelike, this species occurs in mountain brush, sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, spruce-fir, and Bristlecone pine communities in open to thinly wooded rocky slopes, ridges, and canyon bottoms (Welsh et al. 1993; Cronquist et al. 1997). Wyoming populations occur on steep sagebrush slopes or mountain shrub communities of *Purshia tridentata* and *Amelanchier* on shallow-stony or hard clay soils (often in areas that accumulate winter snow) at elevations of 7600-8080 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 occurrences in Wyoming, both observed since 1994 (most recently in 2000).

Abundance: Populations are restricted in geographic area, but complete census data are not available.

Trends: Not known. Cedar Mountain population has been known since 1979 and may be stable at present.

Protection status: One population is protected within Fossil Butte National Monument. The Cedar Mountain occurrence is on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be threatened by habitat loss from road construction, off-road vehicles, or grazing. The full extent of these threats has not been determined.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office and Fossil Butte National Monument.

References:

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Author: Walter Fertig

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