

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CENTUNCULUS MINIMUS
CHAFFWEED
Family: Primulaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

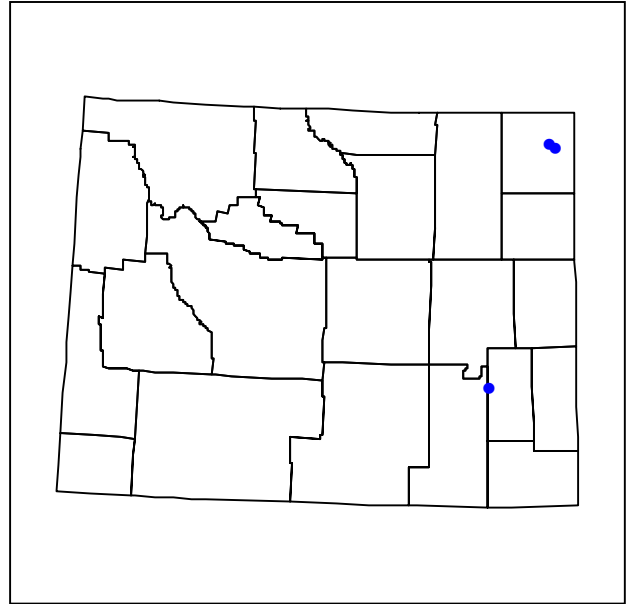
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Chaffweed is an annual, glabrous herb with decumbent to erect stems 2-10 cm tall. Stem leaves are alternate (lowest may be opposite), essentially sessile, entire, and oblong, spoon-shaped, or elliptic with blades 5-10 mm long and wide. Flowers occur singly in the leaf axils and are sessile or on stalks less than 1 mm long. The corolla is 1-3 mm long and has 4 or 5 white or pink petals that are shorter than the sepals. Fruits are globe-shaped capsules 1.5-2 mm in diameter that dehisce at the middle (Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Similar Species: *Glaux maritima* is a perennial with opposite leaves and flowers without petals (but with petal-like sepals). *Crassula aquatica* has opposite leaves and membranous white flowers.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.

Distribution: Europe, South America, and in North America irregularly from Nova Scotia to British Columbia and south to Florida, California, and Mexico (except for much of the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin). In Wyoming, known from the Black Hills and Eastern Plains in Crook and Platte counties.



Wyoming distribution of *Centunculus minimus*.

Habitat: Found in moist seepage areas and along streams (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Wyoming populations occur on shores, moist areas, and gravelly washes (Dorn 1992) at 4500-5600 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 occurrences in Wyoming, two of which have been observed from 1982-1991.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known populations are on public or state lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Black Hills National Forest and WY state lands.

References:

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Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, and M. Ownbey. 1959. Pt. 4. Ericaceae through Campanulaceae. In: C.L. Hitchcock, A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Publications in Biology 17(4):1-510.

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