

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CIRCAEA LUTETIANA VAR.
CANADENSIS
CANADIAN ENCHANTER'S
NIGHTSHADE
Family: Onagraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Canadian enchanter's nightshade is a perennial herb with erect, glabrous stems 30-70 cm tall from a slender rhizome that lacks enlarged tubers at its tip. Leaves are opposite, mostly twice as long as wide, and have coarsely-toothed narrow to broadly ovate blades 5-12 cm long x 2.5-8.5 mm wide. The inflorescence is a glandular raceme 5-20 cm long with spreading flower stalks and flowers opening after the elongation of the stem axis. Flowers have 2 white to pinkish, deeply-notched petals 1.3-2.9 mm long and 2 sepals 2.5-4 mm long. Fruits are 2.8-4.5 mm long and covered with soft, curved-tipped hairs (Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Circaea alpina* has flowers on erect or ascending stalks that mature before the stem elongates fully, sepals under 2 mm long, leaves less than twice as wide as long, and rhizomes terminated by thick tubers. *Galium* spp. have whorled leaves, a 3-5 lobed corolla of white, greenish, or yellow petals, and fruits divided into 2 segments (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-September.



Above: *C. lutetiana* var. *canadensis* by W. Fertig.

Distribution: Occurs from Quebec to Minnesota south to North Carolina, Oklahoma, and northeast Wyoming. In Wyoming, known only from the Black Hills in Crook County.

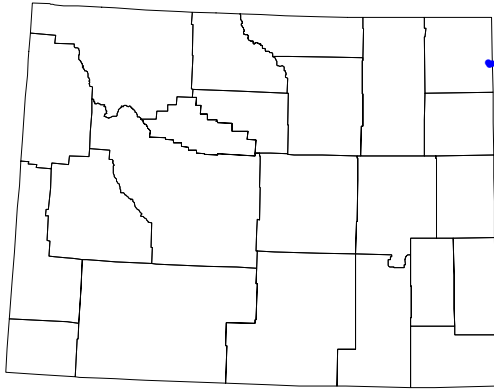
Habitat: Typically found in moist woods along streams. Wyoming populations are found in drainage bottoms dominated by Paper birch, Hop-hornbeam, and Bur oak at 4000-4200 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1979 (most recently in 1989).

Abundance: Populations are all small and localized. Total state range is restricted to a few acres within a 2 x 3-mile area near the South Dakota state line.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One occurrence is within the Dugout Gulch Special Botanical Area on Black Hills National Forest. A second population may occur within a TNC



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Circaea lutetiana* var. *canadensis*.

Marriott, H. 1995. Botanical assessment: Reinecke and Haiar properties, Crook County, WY (Sand Creek Project). Unpublished report prepared for the Wyoming Field Office, The Nature Conservancy.

Marriott, H.J. 1989. Suitability investigation report for a proposed Dugout Gulch Special Botanical Area, Black Hills National Forest. Prepared for Black Hills National Forest by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig

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Threats: May be threatened by loss of forest habitats to development and succession.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Black Hills National Forest.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

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

Holmgren, N. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual - Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY.