

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*CRYPTANTHA ROLLINSII*  
ROLLINS' CATSEYE  
Family: Boraginaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic  
(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Rollins' catseye is a densely bristly forb that is 1-3.5 dm tall with a mostly single-stemmed habit from a biennial to short-lived perennial taproot. The leaves are mostly clustered at the base and are gradually reduced in size up the stem; they are oblanceolate to spatulate, 2-5 cm long x 0.5-1.5 cm wide, and pustulate-bristly on both sides. The inflorescence is made up of 3-6 flowered racemes in dense clusters which tend to be more open at maturity. The calyx segments are linear and bristly. The corolla is white, funnel-shaped, and has a tube over 6 mm long. The lanceolate nutlets are 3-4 mm long x 1-1.5 mm wide, obscurely roughened on the dorsal surface, and mostly smooth on the ventral surface; the scar is closed and without an elevated margin (Higgins 1971, 1972; Welsh et. al. 1993, Cronquist et. al. 1984).

Synonyms: *Oreocarya rollinsii*

Similar Species: *Cryptantha flavoculata* lacks pustulate bristles and has nutlets that are strongly wrinkled on both sides. *C. flava* has a yellow corolla. *C. stricta*, *C. sericea*, and *C. celosioides* all have corolla tubes less than 6 mm.



Above: *Cryptantha rollinsii* in flower by Walt Fertig.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers from May-June; fruits present through July.

Distribution: Regional endemic of Utah and SW Wyoming. In Wyoming, known from the northern foothills of the Uinta Range and the Green River Basin in Sweetwater County.

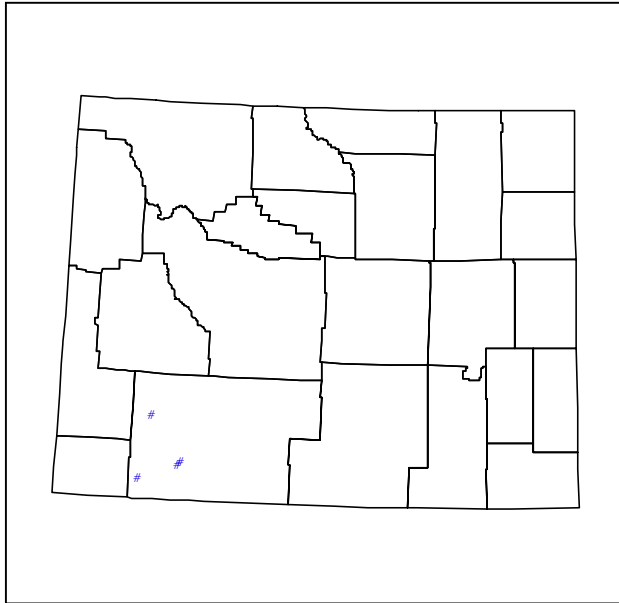
Habitat: Rangelwide on shale ridges, in salt and mixed desert scrub, sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, and mountain brush communities (Welsh et. al. 1993). Wyoming populations are found in cushion plant communities on ridgetops and slopes with sandy soils or sandstone slate flakes between 6040-7820 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 confirmed records (both observed since 1995), one probable record (specimen lacks mature fruit), and one literature report (Dorn 1992) in Wyoming.

Abundance: Census information from one population studied in 1998 suggests that colonies are small and localized.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One unconfirmed population occurs within Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge. Other populations in the state are from public lands managed for



Wyoming distribution of *Cryptantha rollinsii*.

multiple use. Formerly considered a C2 candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Rock Springs Field Office. Also reported from Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge and Flaming Gorge NRA (Ashley National Forest).

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Author: Melanie Arnett

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