

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CYMOPTERUS ALPINUS
ALPINE OREOXIS
Family: Apiaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

(Low conservation priority)

Description: Alpine oreoxis is a low, mat-forming perennial less than 10 cm tall with deep creeping rhizomes. The leaves arise directly from the base of the root crown and are all basal. Leaf blades are 2-8 mm long and once or twice-pinnately compound with the ultimate divisions of the leaflets linear or narrowly elliptic. The inflorescence is a compact, compound umbel with linear, green involucler bracts. Flowers are yellow, about 1 mm long, and lack a stylopodium. Fruits are 3-6 mm long, sessile, and have thick, corky wings that obscure its flattened shape (Cronquist et al. 1997; Scott 1997; Dorn 1977, 1992).

Synonym: *Oreoxis alpinus*.

Similar Species: *Cymopterus montanus*, *C. bulbosus*, and *C. acaulis* have basal leaves borne on a naked stem called a "pseudoscape" located below ground between the roots and leaves. Other Wyoming *Cymopterus* species have leafy stems, once-compound leaves, or fruits with thin, slender wings. *Aletes humilis* has once-pinnate leaves with ovate-oblong leaflets and fruits without corky wings (Dorn 1992).

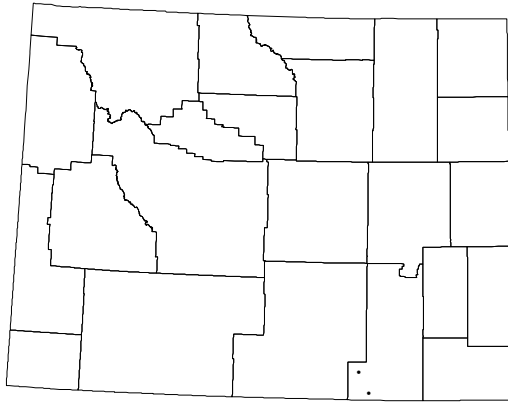


Above: *Cymopterus alpinus* by Waler Fertig.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July.

Distribution: Southeastern Wyoming and Colorado to central Utah and Arizona. In Wyoming, known only from the Medicine Bow Range in Albany County.

Habitat: This species is found on rock piles at high elevations, often above timberline (Cronquist et al 1997, Scott 1997). Wyoming populations occur at 7550-9600 feet in rocky sites.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Cymopterus alpinus*.

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

Scott, R.W. 1997. The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains. Volume 1 The Middle Rockies. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT.

Author: Walter Fertig

Updated: 99-12-04

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single extant record in Wyoming (last observed in 1989) and one historical report (1895).

Abundance: Not known, but reported as "occasional to abundant" by Ron Hartman at one site in 1989.

Trends: Not known.

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

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Medicine Bow National Forest and possibly the BLM Rawlins Field Office.

References:

Cronquist, A., N.H. Holmgren, and P.K. Holmgren. 1997. Subclass Rosidae (except Fabales). Intermountain Flora, Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA, Volume 3, Part A. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Dorn, R.D. 1977. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Wyoming. 2 volumes. Garland Publ., INC., New York, NY.