

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CYPRIPEDIUM PARVIFLORUM
VAR. *PUBESCENS*
LARGE YELLOW LADY'S-SLIPPER
Family: Orchidaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: USFS R2 sensitive

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T5 State: S2
Range Context: Disjunct
Wyoming Contribution Rank: Medium

Description: Large yellow lady's-slipper is a perennial herb 20-40 cm tall with leafy stems from a short rhizome. The leaves are 8-15 cm long, elliptic, alternate, and number 3 or more. The irregular, yellow flowers are solitary. The narrow sepals are up to 4 cm long and usually shorter than the lip. The lip petal is yellow, 17-30 mm long and slipper-shaped. The fruit is an elliptic capsule that contains thousands of miniscule seeds (Dorn 2001, Harrington 1954).

Synonyms: *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *parviflorum*

Similar Species: *Cypripedium fasciculatum* has only 2 opposite leaves per stem. *C. montanum* has a white lip petal (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Late May to June.

Distribution: Alaska to Newfoundland, south to Oregon, eastern North Dakota, and Georgia, with disjunct populations in the Rocky Mountains from Wyoming to New Mexico and Texas. In Wyoming it is known from the Bighorn Mountains and Black Hills in Big Horn, Crook, Sheridan, and Washakie counties. A specimen from the east slope of



Above: *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens* by Jennifer Whipple.

Below: *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens* by W. Fertig.



the Wind River Range (Fremont County) has been attributed to this taxon, but may belong to var. *parviflorum*.

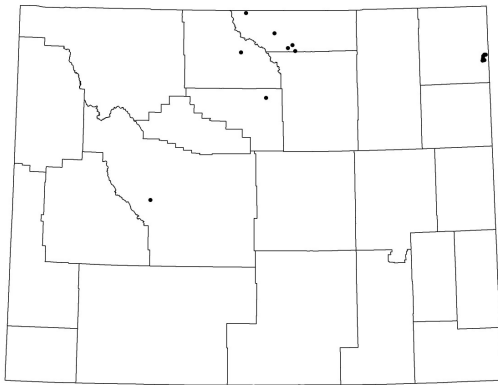
Habitat: This species is found in damp, mossy woods, along streamsides, and in bogs at 4000-6400 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 12 extant occurrences, all observed since 1979 and 2 historical populations. Last observed in 2004.

Abundance: Population size poorly known, but thought to be small.

Trends: Probably declining during last century.

Protection status: One of the Black Hills populations occurs in the vicinity of the Dugout Gulch Botanical Management Area. One population on Bighorn National Forest is found within the potential Dry Fork Research Natural Area. All other known populations are found on public, state, or private lands managed for multiple use.



Wyoming distribution of *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*.

Threats: Threatened by grazing at some sites (the plants persist, but are unable to reproduce by seed due to herbivory of

flowers). Also threatened by picking by wildflower enthusiasts and gardeners and by habitat loss from development. This species could be vulnerable to overcollection as a medicinal plant.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by Black Hills and Bighorn National Forests and on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

References:

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. 1977. Volume 6, The Monocotyledons. Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA. Columbia University Press, New York.

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Evert, E. F. 1985. Rare Plants: Story Area. Unpublished report prepared by the author.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, and M. Owenbey. 1969. Pt. 1. Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons, IN: Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Owenbey, and J.W. Thompson (eds). Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Publications in Biology 17(1): 1-914.

Larson, G.E. and J.R. Johnson. 1999. Plants of the Black Hills and Bear Lodge Mountains. South Dakota State University College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences & South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Brookings, SD.

Luer, C.A. 1975. The Native Orchids of the United States and Canada excluding Florida. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Marriott, H.J. 1991. Suitability investigation report for a proposed Bear/Beaver Gulches Special Botanical Area. Prepared for Black Hills National Forest by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Mergen, Daryl E. (2006, July 17)
Cypripedium parviflorum Salisb. (lesser yellow lady's slipper): A Technical Conservation Assessment. [Online]. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Available:
[http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/cypripedium parviflorum.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/cypripedium_parviflorum.pdf) [2008].

Ode, D. J., and H. Marriott. 1990. Sensitive plant surveys in the northwestern Black Hills. Unpublished GFP Report No. 90-3 to the Black Hills National Forest, Spearfish and Bearlodge Ranger Districts, prepared by the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program and the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.

Romero-Gonzalez, G.A., G.C. Fernandez-Concha, R.L. Dressler, L.K. Magrath, and G.W. Argus. 2002. Orchidaceae. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds., 2002. Flora of North America North of Mexico. Vol. 26. Magnoliophyta: Liliidae: Liliales and Orchidales. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford. pp. 490-651.

Welp, L., W. Fertig, and G. Jones. 1998. Ecological Evaluation of the potential Dry Fork Research Natural Area Within the Bighorn National Forest, Sheridan County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Kevin O'Dea and Walter Fertig
Updated: by Joy Handley 08-02-12