

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

DRABA PORSILDII
PORSILD'S WHITLOW-GRASS
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3G4 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low
conservation concern)

Description: Porsild's whitlow-grass is a tufted perennial herb with glabrous to sparsely pubescent stems 2-6.5 cm tall. Leaves are mostly basal, linear to obovate, 2-10 mm long, and covered in many-branched, long-stalked hairs. The inflorescence consists of 2-10 flowers with 4 white petals arranged in an elongate raceme. Fruits are 4-8 mm long, narrowly ovate, hairless, occur on stalks 3-4 mm long, and have styles approximately 0.25 mm long (Clark and Dorn 1979; Rollins 1993).

Similar Species: *Draba porsildii* var. *brevicula* is a variety recognized by Rollins (1993) but not by Dorn (2001) that has a less elongate, umbel-like infructescence with fruit stalks that are less than 2 mm long. *D. lonchocarpa* has linear or oblong fruits longer than 7 mm, and short-stalked leaf hairs. *D. fladnizensis* has leaves that are glabrous on the upper surface. Other tufted alpine *Draba* species in Wyoming have yellow (at least when fresh) flowers or longer styles (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-July.

Distribution: Yukon and the Northwest Territories south to Colorado in the high Rocky Mountains (Rollins 1993). In



Above: *D. porsildii* by W. Fertig.

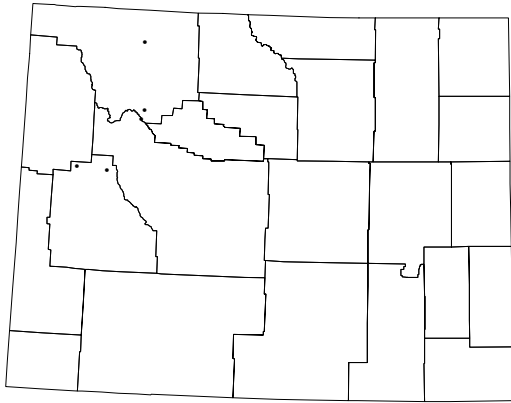
Wyoming it is known from the northern Absaroka and northern Wind River Ranges.

Habitat: On scree and in grassy meadows, along ridges, slopes, and summits in the alpine zone at 9600-13100 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 5 occurrences in Wyoming, three of which have been discovered or revisited since 1983 (most recently in 1994). Formerly reported from several additional sites, but these records have proven to be misidentified.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *D. porsildii*.

Protection Status: Two occurrences may be protected on the Shoshone National Forest. One population occurs in the potential Pat O'Hara Mountain Research Natural Area and may extend into the North Absaroka Wilderness. Another is found in or near the Washakie Wilderness. Two populations are protected within the Bridger-Teton National Forest in the Osborn Mountain Research Natural Area and the Gros Ventre Wilderness.

Threats: Threats are low due to poor accessibility of most sites.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests.

References:

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Mulligan, G.A. 1974. Cytotaxonomic studies of *Draba* and its close allies in Canada and Alaska. Canadian Journal of Botany 52: 1793-1801.

Rollins, R.C. 1993. The Cruciferae of Continental North America, Systematics of the Mustard Family from the Arctic to Panama. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA.

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