

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ELEOCHARIS OVATA
OVATE SPIKE-RUSH
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service:
Agency Status:None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Low Conservation Priority)

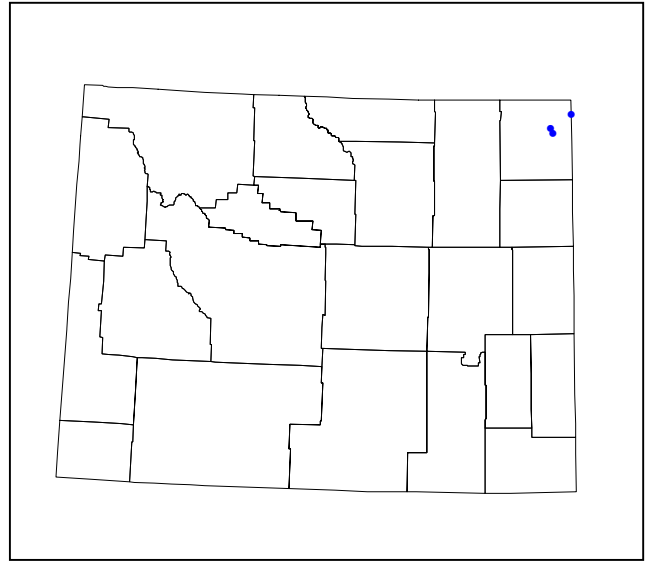
Description: Ovate spike-rush is a tufted annual with erect stems up to 50 cm tall. Leaf sheaths are obliquely truncate at the tip and lack developed blades. The inflorescence is an ovoid terminal, many-flowered spike up to 16 mm long. Individual flowers consist of an oblong to ovate purplish-brown scale with membranous margins enclosing a 6-7 slender bristles (the remnant of the perianth) that are longer than the flattened, lens-shaped yellow or brown achene. The cap (tubercle) of the achene is well-developed and about 3/4 or more as wide as the main body of the achene (Dorn 1992; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Synonyms: *Eleocharis obtusa* var. *ovata*

Similar Species: Other *Eleocharis* spp. in Wyoming are tufted to rhizomatous perennials.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Occurs from Newfoundland to North Dakota and northeast Wyoming, south to Florida and Texas and on the Pacific coast in Washington and Hawaii. In Wyoming, this species is found in the Black Hills in Crook County.



Wyoming distribution of *Eleocharis ovata*.

Habitat: Reported from "wet ground of marshes, ditches, ponds, [and] lakes" (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Wyoming populations occur along the margins of small ponds as an emergent at 3260-4700 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 locations in Wyoming, all observed since 1973. Most recent observation 1989.

Abundance: Abundance not known, but apparently restricted to margins of shallow ponds and stockponds. Total occupied habitat is probably less than 20 acres.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known populations occur on state or public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Populations may be impacted by water pollution or loss of wetland habitats.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Black Hills National Forest.

References:

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