

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*EQUISETUM SCIRPOIDES*  
DWARF SCOURING RUSH  
Family: Equisetaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status:USFS Region 2: Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct

(Medium Conservation Priority)

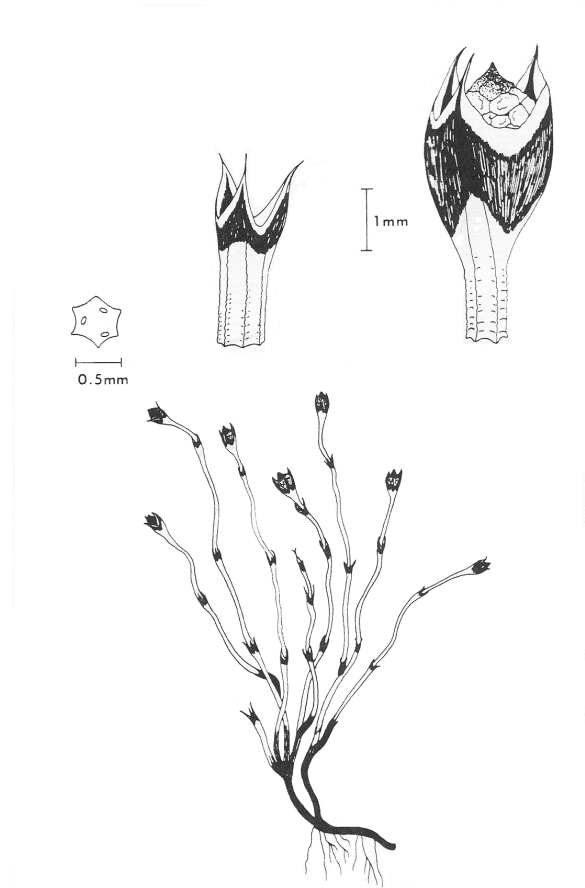
Description: Dwarf scouring-rush is a perennial with evergreen, unbranched, wavy, densely tufted stems 7-20 cm tall. Vegetative stems are 0.5-1 mm wide with six, bumpy, vertical grooves and three-toothed membranous sheaths at each node. Fertile stems are usually more erect and have a single, sharp-pointed, black cone (strobilus) at the tip (Cobb 1956; Hitchcock et al. 1969; Lellinger 1985; Fertig 1993; Fertig et al. 1994).

Similar Species: *Equisetum variegatum* has wider, more erect stems with 4-10 vertical grooves and 4-10 toothed sheaths. Other *Equisetum* species are more robust or have branched stems.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Spores produced May-June.

Distribution: Circumboreal, south to Washington, Montana, Michigan, and Connecticut. Disjunct in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming (Crook County).

Habitat: Shaded, damp moss-covered rocks and sandy loam along streams in white spruce, fir, and paper birch-aspen-hazelnut forests at 5000-5300 feet.

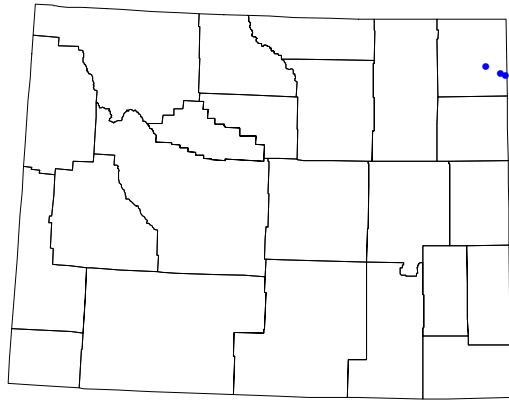


Above: *Equisetum scirpoides* by Jane Dorn (Dorn & Dorn 1972).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 extant occurrences in Wyoming, all discovered or relocated in 2000.

Abundance: Populations in Wyoming are small and restricted to tiny areas of suitable microhabitat, often covering less than 100 square meters.

Trends: Short-term trend data at Upper Sand Creek suggests that populations are relatively stable. Ron Kass suggested in 1997 that population size may fluctuate annually.



Wyoming distribution of *Equisetum scirpoides*.

Protection status: One population is found in the Upper Sand Creek Special Botanical Area. All other Wyoming populations are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Populations threatened by disturbance associated with mining, timber harvest, and cattle grazing.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Black Hills National Forest.

References:

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