

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ERIOGONUM DIVARICATUM
DIVERGENT WILD BUCKWHEAT
Family: Polygonaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low conservation priority)

Description: Divergent wild buckwheat is a low, spreading annual with stems 5-20 cm high. Basal leaf blades are oblong to oval, 1-2 cm wide, and green above and crinkly-pubescent beneath. Stem leaves are similar to the basal leaves, but become gradually reduced in size. Flowering stems are somewhat dichotomously branched, pubescent, and leafy. Involucres are 1-2 mm long, top-shaped, pubescent, and 5-lobed. The flowers are yellowish, 1.5-2 mm long, and glandular hairy on the outside. Achenes are light brown and 1.5-2 mm long (Reveal 1969; Welsh et al. 1993).

Similar Species: All other annual *Eriogonum* species in southwestern Wyoming have glabrous flowers or lack developed stem leaves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers late May-early June; fruits present late June-August.

Distribution: In Wyoming, known from the Great Divide and Green River basins in Sublette, Sweetwater, Lincoln, and Uinta counties.



Above: *Eriogonum divaricatum* by Walter Fertig.

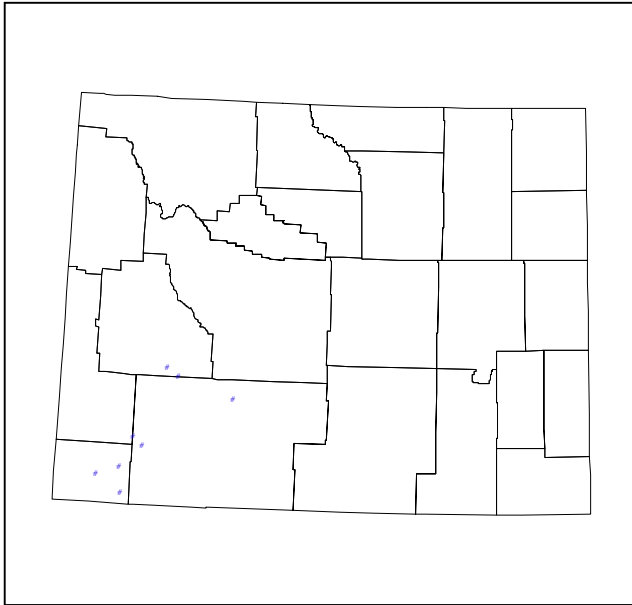
Habitat: Found on barren or semi-barren clay, shale, or sandstone slopes in cushion plant-bunchgrass communities or on the fringes of sagebrush grasslands at 6250-7500 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 5 extant populations (last observed in 1998) and 3 historical collections. Two additional obscure historical reports need to be confirmed.

Abundance: Populations may be locally abundant, numbering in the hundreds to low thousands. Colonies may be restricted to specialized microhabitats and occupy small areas.

Trends: Not known. As a desert annual, this species may fluctuate in abundance from year to year based on seasonal moisture.

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



Wyoming distribution of *Eriogonum divaricatum*.

Threats: Populations may occur in the vicinity of oil and gas development, but impacts are not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Kemmerer, Pinedale, and Rock Springs Field Offices.

References:

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

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