

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ERIOPHORUM CALLITRIX
VAR *CALLITRIX*
SHEATHED COTTON-GRASS
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (medium conservation priority)

Description: Sheathed cottongrass is a densely tufted, non-rhizomatous perennial with slender stems (culms) 10-20 cm high. The uppermost sheath occurs below the middle of the culm or close to its base. Basal leaves are numerous, coarse, and stiff. The solitary spikelets are borne at the tip of the stems, and have dark scales and shiny, white bristles. Anthers are 0.7-1 mm long (Porsild and Cody 1980; Hulten 1968).

Similar Species: Both *Eriophorum scheuchzeri* and *E. chamissonis* have rhizomes. Other *Eriophorum* species in Wyoming have two or more spikelets per stem.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

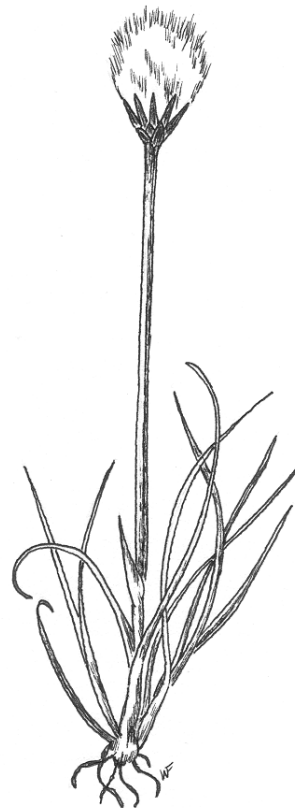
Distribution: Circumpolar; disjunct in Wyoming where it is known from the Beartooth Plateau and E Wind River Range in Fremont and Park counties.

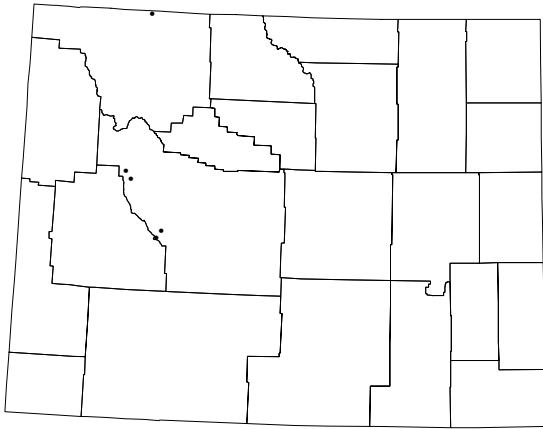
Habitat: Subalpine to alpine streambanks, bogs, and short willow and sedge meadows on wet, mossy soils often influenced by limestone. Elevation 10,000 – 11,250 feet.



Above: *Eriophorum callitrix* var. *callitrix*
by Sabine Mellman-Brown.

Below: *E. callitrix* var. *callitrix* by Walter Fertig





Wyoming distribution of *E. callitrix* var. *callitrix*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 extant and 1 historical occurrences in Wyoming, 3 of which have been discovered or relocated since 1991 (most recently in 1999).

Abundance: Census data are lacking for nearly all populations. Based on observations of the Beartooth Plateau occurrence in 1996, individual colonies may number in the low thousands and be locally abundant.

Trends: Trend data are lacking, but populations are assumed to be stable (at least at present).

Protection Status: 3 occurrences are protected within designated wilderness areas (Fitzpatrick and Popo Agie wilderness areas). One population may occur in the proposed Line Creek/Twin Lakes RNA.

Threats: Individual colonies may be impacted by grazing, trampling, and recreational activity.

Managed Areas: All known occurrences in the state are on Shoshone National Forest.

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Updated: 00-11-25