

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*EUPHORBIA EXSTIPULATA* VAR  
*EXSTIPULATA*  
SQUARE-SEEDED SPURGE

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T5            State: SH  
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct  
Medium Wyoming Significance

Description: Square-seeded spurge is a 0.5 to 2.5 dm tall, taprooted, annual herb. The herbage is green and sparsely hairy. The stem is single and erect, with the branches curving upward from the base. The leaves are opposite, 1 to 5 cm long by 2 to 10 mm wide, linear to upside-down lance-shaped, and finely toothed along the upper half to two-thirds. The stipules are absent or present only as small, gland-like structures. The "flowers" are crowded in the leaf axils and at the ends of the stem and branches. The cyathium ("flower cup") has 5 white, 2 to 3 lobed, petal-like appendages. The capsules are 2.3 to 2.8 mm long and short-hairy (Dorn 2001, Cronquist 1997).

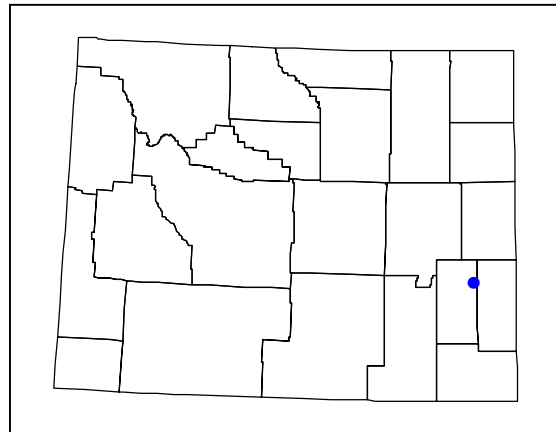
Synonyms: *Euphorbia aliciae*

Similar Species: *Euphorbia dentata* does not have petal-like appendages, and the leaves are often wider. *Euphorbia hexagona* does not have toothed leaves, and its capsules are 3 to 5 mm long.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowering and fruiting occur from July through September.

Distribution: Square-seeded spurge is known from Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, south to northern Mexico and western Texas, with a disjunct population in the Hartville Uplift of Platte County, Wyoming.

Habitat: Found primarily on limestone alluvium across its range (Cronquist et al. 1997). The Wyoming population probably was found on limey sandstone at 4800 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Euphorbia exstipulata*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single historical record in Wyoming, last observed in 1894. It is possible that it was introduced.

Abundance: Unknown; may be extirpated in Wyoming. This species was not relocated in a 1994 survey of the Hartville Uplift area.

Trends: Unknown; may be extirpated.

Protection status: No occurrences are known from lands receiving special management attention.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: May occur on lands managed by the BLM Casper Field Office.

References:

Cronquist, A., N.H. Holmgren, and P.K. Holmgren. 1997. Subclass Rosidae (except Fabales). Intermountain Flora, Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA, Volume 3, Part A. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Nelson, A. 1906. Contributions from the Rocky Mountain Herbarium VII. The Botanical Gazette 42:48-54.

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