

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

FILAGO PROLIFERA
RABBIT TOBACCO
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

Range Context: Widespread/Edge

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

Description: Rabbit tobacco is a grayish, woolly, annual herb with slender taproots. Stems are erect and simple or branching at the base, and 2-15 cm tall. Cauline leaves are alternate, narrowly oblanceolate to spatulate, 3-15 mm long, and smooth margined. The inflorescence has heads of dense woolly clusters at the ends of stems and branches subtended by leaves 6-12 mm long, and with leaves protruding between the heads. The receptacle is chaffy and there are no ray florets. Mature achenes are oblong-elliptic, compressed, 0.6-0.9 mm long, and yellowish brown (Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 2006).

Synonyms: *Evax prolifera*, *Diaperia prolifera* var. *prolifera*

Similar Species: *Logfia arvensis* (syn. *Filago arvensis*), *Gnaphalium* and *Pseudognaphalium* have capillary bristles on the receptacle and do not have conspicuous leaves in the flower head (Dorn 2001).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-July.



Above: *Filago prolifera*, from: Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 3: 446.

Below: *Filago prolifera*, by B. Heidel



Distribution: Occurs from Montana to South Dakota, south to New Mexico and Mississippi. In Wyoming it is known from the Hartville Uplift, Casper Arch, and Black Hills in Platte, Natrona, and Crook counties.

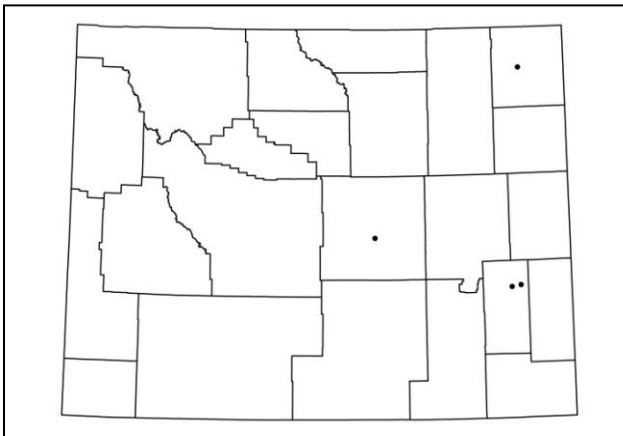
Habitat: Rangelike, this species is reported from dry, open, often disturbed soils, barren to grassy, brushy, or wooded slopes, plains, and prairies (Flora of North America Editorial

Committee. 2006). Wyoming populations are found in dry mixed grass prairie, on sandy and silty soils, including prairie dog towns and other natural disturbances, at 3850-5900 feet.



Above: *Filago prolifera* habitat, by B. Heidel

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 extant locations in Wyoming (all discovered since 1993).



Wyoming distribution of *Filago prolifera*.

Abundance: The occurrence numbered in at least the 10,000's at Devils Tower National Monument.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One occurrence is at Devils Tower National Monument. All other occurrences are from state or federal lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Devils Tower National Monument, Camp Guernsey Training Area, and the BLM Casper Field Office.

References:

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

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. *Flora of the Great Plains*. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Heidel, B. 2008. Survey for special plant species of concern in Devils Tower National Monument. Prepared for the National Park Service. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Morefield, J.D. 2006. *Diaperia*. In: *Flora of North America north of Mexico*. 26+ volumes. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford. Vol.19, pp. 460-463.

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