

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

GALIUM COLORADOENSE
COLORADO BEDSTRAW
Family: Rubiaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Medium Wyoming Significance)

Description: Colorado bedstraw is a perennial herb with numerous, 4-angled stems up to 4 dm tall, arising from a woody base. Leaves are opposite (appearing whorled due to the presence of leaf-like stipules), 0.5-2 cm long and at least 5 times as long as wide, glabrous or only sparsely hairy, and with a tiny point at each tip. Flowers are unisexual (the male and female flowers on separate plants), borne in small clusters at the tips of branches, each flower with 4 small greenish-yellow petals 1-2 mm long. The 2-lobed fruit is densely covered with whitish bristles 1.5-2.5 mm long (Cronquist et al. 1984).

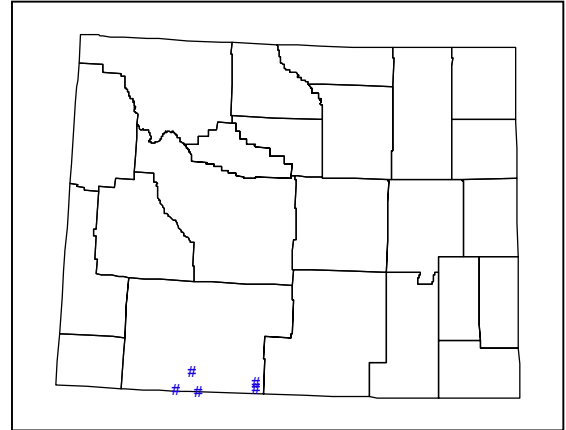
Synonyms: *Galium multiflorum* var. *coloradoense*

Similar Species: *Galium boreale* has blunt leaf tips, bisexual flowers in dense clusters, and the fruits are short-hairy (hairs less than 1 mm long) (Dorn 2001, Cronquist et al. 1984).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June - August.

Distribution: Utah and Arizona, east to Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico (Welsh 1993). In Wyoming, it is restricted to the Washakie Basin and Rock Springs Uplift in Sweetwater County.

Habitat: Found in warm desert shrub, shadscale, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper communities (Welsh et al. 1993). In Wyoming, it is known mostly from rocky sagebrush slopes and Utah juniper woodlands on sandstone ridges at 6400-7600 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Galium coloradoense*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 5 extant occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1970 (with 3 being discovered or relocated since 1991).

Abundance: Not known, but probably small.

Trends: Unknown.

Protection status: One occurrence is in the Red Creek ACEC. All other known populations are on public land managed for multiple use.

Threats: Disturbances associated with oil and gas development may be a threat.

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

References:

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Fertig, W., L. Welp, and S. Markow. 1998. The status of rare plants in southwest Wyoming. Report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Harrington, H. D. 1954. Manual of the Plants of Colorado. Sage Books, Chicago, IL.

Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora, second edition, revised. Brigham Young University Print Services, Provo, UT.

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