

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

HESPEROCHIRON CALIFORNICUS
CALIFORNIA HESPEROCHIRON
Family: Hydrophyllaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

Medium Wyoming Significance

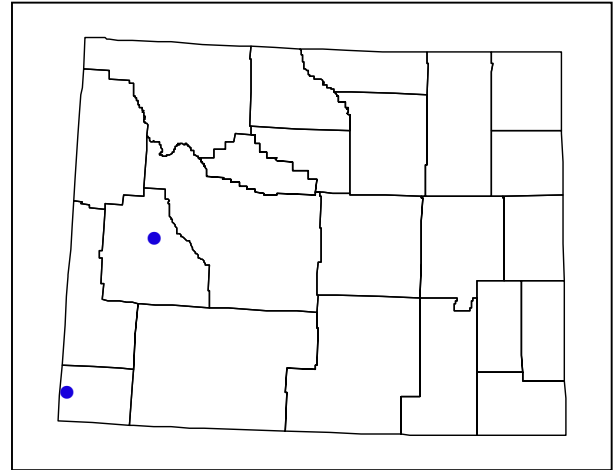
Description: California hesperochiron is a low-growing perennial herb with a woody taproot. Leaves are all at the base with oblanceolate blades up to 7.5 cm long and 2.5 cm wide, short-hairy on both surfaces (occasionally nearly glabrous). The 5-several flower stems are slightly shorter than the leaves, each with a single flower at the top. Flowers are 1-2 (up to 2.5) cm long with 5 white to lavender corolla lobes, basally united to form a bell-shaped structure, with the lobes about as long as the tube. Five stamens are inserted within the corolla tube, and the fruit is a small, papery, many-seeded capsule.

Similar Species: *Hesperochiron pumilus* rarely has more than 5 flowers per plant, has corolla lobes much longer than the tube, and the leaves are glabrous on one or more surfaces.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May - June

Distribution: Washington to southern California, east to western Montana, western Wyoming and northeastern Utah (Cronquist et al. 1984). In Wyoming, it is only known from the Evanston area (Uinta County) and the upper Green River Basin in Sublette County.

Habitat: Moist to dry meadows at 6700-7000 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Hesperochiron californicus*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single extant occurrence, discovered in 1995 by Steve Laster and Tom Cramer (last observed in 2000) and one historical report from 1898.

Abundance: Several thousand plants were observed at the Hay Gulch site by Fertig and Laster in 1998.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Occurs on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Pinedale Field Office.

References:

Cramer, T. and R.L. Hartman. 1996. General floristic/sensitive plant species survey of the Upper Green River Basin, Wyoming, final report. Unpublished report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming. 11 pp. + appendices.

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. 1984. Intermountain Flora. Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA. Vol 4. Subclass Asteridae. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

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

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.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, and M. Ownbey. 1959. Pt. 4. Ericaceae through Campanulaceae. In: C.L. Hitchcock, A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Publications in Biology 17(4):1-510.

Author: Stuart Markow and Walter Fertig
Updated: 12-10-01