

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

HETEROTHECA PUMILA
LITTLE GOLDEN-ASTER
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

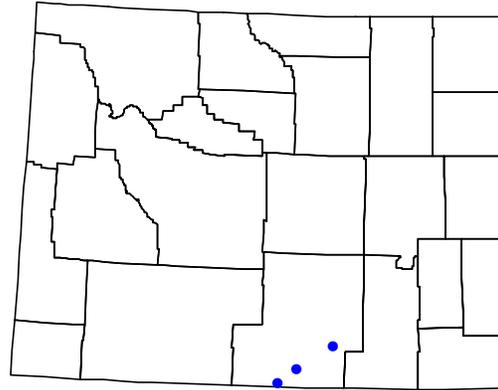
Global: G4 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Little golden-aster is a perennial herb with a woody taproot and numerous decumbent to erect, long-pubescent stems 12.5-29 cm tall. Lower stem leaves are narrowly oblanceolate, 25-40 mm long and 4-7 mm wide, and covered with short, appressed hairs. Upper leaves are little reduced or even larger than the lower stem leaves and are sparsely to moderately glandular. The inflorescence consists of mostly 1-4 (but up to 9) flower heads, each of which is subtended by 1 or more leaf-like bracts 6-15 mm long and borne on densely short-pubescent stalks. Involucres are 7.5-10.5 mm long and composed of 4-5 overlapping rows of phyllaries. Ray and disk flowers are yellow. Fruits are achenes 1.7-2.5 mm long and sparsely hairy, with a double pappus of narrow scales and barbellate bristles (Semple 1996).

Similar Species: Other *Heterotheca* species in Wyoming occur at lower elevations or have lower leaves that are about the same size as the upper leaves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: August-September.



Wyoming distribution of *Heterotheca pumila*.

Distribution: Regional endemic of south-central Wyoming and western Colorado. Also reported from eastern Utah, although these plants show intergradation with other taxa (Semple 1996). In Wyoming, known only from the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow Range in Carbon County.

Habitat: Subalpine and alpine sites on rocky granite, clay, or shale soils (Semple 1996). Wyoming populations occur on grassy and rocky slopes at 9000-10800 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 extant and 1 historical records in Wyoming, last confirmed in 1984.

Abundance: Not known, but appears to be restricted in area.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

One population may be within the potential Battle Mountain Research Natural Area.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Medicine Bow National Forest.

References:

Semple, J.C. 1987. New names, combinations, and lectotypifications in *Heterotheca* (Compositae: Astereae). *Brittonia* 39(3):379-386.

Semple, J.C. 1996. A revision of *Heterotheca* sect. *Phyllothea* (Nutt.) Harms (Compositae: Astereae): the prairie and montane goldenasters of North America. University of Waterloo Biology Series 37: 1-164.

Welp, L., W.F. Fertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine filter analysis of the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

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