

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*IPOMOPSIS SPICATA* SSP. *ROBRUTHII*  
KIRKPATRICK'S IPOMOPSIS  
Family: Polemoniaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None  
(formerly a C2 candidate for lists under the  
Endangered Species Act).

Agency Status: USFS Region 2: Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4?T2 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: State endemic  
(medium conservation priority)

Description: Kirkpatrick's ipomopsis is a perennial herb with densely leafy flowering stems 3-7 cm long. The basal and stem leaves are pinnately divided into 4-8 narrow segments and are covered with dense woolly and cobwebby hairs. The 5-lobed, tubular, white flowers are clustered into a woolly-tometose, dense, head-like inflorescence 1.5-4 cm long (Wilken and Hartman 1991; Dorn 1992).

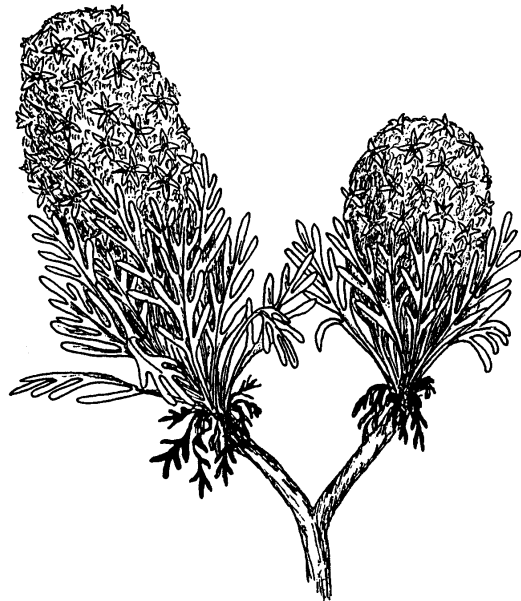
Synonyms: *Ipomopsis spicata* var.  
*robruthiorum*.

Similar Species: *Ipomopsis spicata* var.  
*spicata* has an elongated, often interrupted  
spike and longer, less leafy, stems. *I. spicata*  
var. *orchidacea* is usually taller and has  
leaves with five or fewer divisions. *I.*  
*congesta* has short, congested flower heads  
on elongate, short-leafy, multi-branched  
stems (Wilken and Hartman 1991; Dorn  
1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

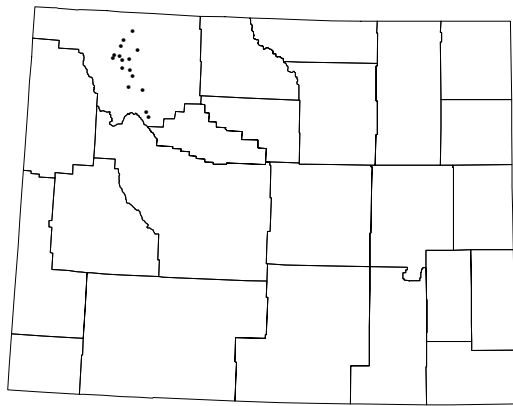


Above and below: *Ipomopsis spicata* ssp. *robruthii*  
by Walter Fertig.



Distribution: The ssp. *robruthii* is endemic to the Absaroka Mountains of Wyoming (Park County).

Habitat: Montane sandy to rocky volcanic scree, rocky slopes, tundra, alpine meadows, turf mats, and open Douglas fir forests. The soils or substrates are derived from andesite volcanic rock at 7200-13000 feet.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *I. spicata* ssp. *robruthii*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 16 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been discovered or relocated since 1981 (most recently in 1997).

Abundance: Census data are lacking for nearly all known occurrences. One population surveyed in 1996 was found to contain 500-650 plants in an area of 10 acres.

Trends: Although no trend data are available, this species is presumed to be stable due to the low threats in its rugged, inaccessible habitat.

Protection Status: At least 14 of the 16 known populations are wholly or partially protected within the Washakie and North Absaroka Wilderness Areas. One occurrence

is also within the Grizzly Creek potential Research Natural Area.

Threats: Threats minimal due to its rugged habitat. Some populations could be impacted by sheep grazing or trampling.

Managed Areas: All known occurrences are on Shoshone National Forest.

#### References:

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