

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*KOENIGIA ISLANDICA*  
KOENIGIA  
Family: Polygonaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None  
Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (medium  
conservation priority)

Description: *Koenigia* is a glabrous, reddish-stemmed annual herb less than 5 cm tall. The leaves are oblanceolate to obovate and blunt, sessile, and essentially opposite to whorled. Flowers are 1 to few and borne in axillary or terminal clusters. The perianth consists of 3 (rarely 4) greenish-white calyx lobes. Flowers have 3 stamens, 2 styles, and produce a triangular dark brown achene (Scott 1997; Porsild and Cody 1980; Hulten 1968).

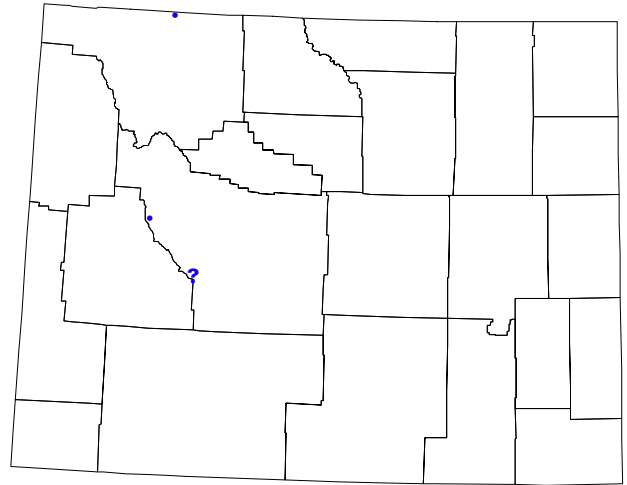
Similar Species: Seedling *Epilobium* species may have reddish stems and opposite leaves, but lack flowers.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: August.

Distribution: Circumpolar, extending south in North America to scattered alpine summits in the Rocky Mountains as far south as Colorado. In Wyoming, known from the Beartooth and Wind River ranges in Fremont and Park county.

Habitat: Wet nival basins, stream banks, lakeshores, and areas of patterned ground at 10,000-12,500 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from two occurrences in Wyoming, only one of which has been located since 1963 (last observed in 1999). Reported from at least four locations in the state by Scott (1997).



Above: Wyoming distribution of *K. islandica*.

Abundance: Locally abundant within its specialized habitat. Surveys of 6 small colonies in 1996 suggested that the total population in the Beartooth Range may number over 15,000 individuals in a total area of 6 acres.

Trends: Trend data are not available. Given the annual nature of this species, large fluctuations may occur in population size from year to year. Overall, the trend is probably stable to possibly even increasing. Sheep and horse grazing activity on the Beartooth does not appear to be having an adverse impact at present.

Protection Status: One occurrence is protected within the Fitzpatrick Wilderness Area. At least one of the Beartooth Plateau colonies lies within the boundaries of the proposed Line Creek/Twin Lakes Research Natural Area.

Threats: May be impacted by recreational activity and trampling. Grazing does not appear to be having a negative impact on Beartooth Plateau colonies.

Managed Areas: Known only from Shoshone National Forest.

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