

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*LESQUERELLA ARENOSA*  
VAR. *ARGILLOSA*  
SIDESADDLE BLADDERPOD  
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: WY BLM Sensitive

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T4 State: S1  
Range Context: Regional Endemic/ edge  
Wyoming Contribution Rank: High?

Description: Sidesaddle bladderpod is an annual or short-lived perennial with several semi-prostrate, densely-pubescent stems 10 to 20 cm long. The basal leaves are 2-10 mm wide, oblanceolate, and long-petioled while the stem leaves are elliptic, 1-4 mm wide, and entire. Flowers are 6-8 mm long with four yellow petals that may dry to reddish or lavender. The fruits are borne on recurved pedicels positioned along one side of the flowering stem (secund) and are pubescent with tightly appressed hairs (Rollins and Shaw 1973; Marriott 1992; Fertig et al. 1994).

Similar Species: *Lesquerella arenosa* var. *arenosa* differs in having hairs of the fruit spreading rather than closely appressed. *L. ludoviciana* has taller stems, narrower leaves, yellow petals, and non-secund fruit. Other species of *Lesquerella* differ in having wider basal leaves or S-shaped pedicels (Dorn 2001).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: In flower late May-June; in fruit mid-June – early July.

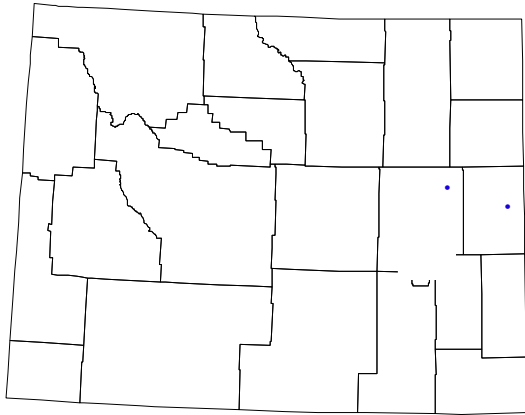


Above: *Lesquerella arenosa* var. *argillosa* by B. Heidel.

Below: Line drawing of *L. arenosa* var. *argillosa* by Walter Fertig.



Distribution: Regional endemic of eastern Wyoming, southwestern South Dakota, and western Nebraska. In Wyoming, this taxon is



Wyoming distribution of *Lesquerella arenosa* var. *argillosa*.

known only from the eastern Great Plains in Niobrara counties. Additional reports from the Black Hills in Crook County (Dorn 2001) have been determined as var. *arenosa* by Marriott (1992) and reports in Natrona County have been determined as mistaken (Beatty et al. 2003).



*Lesquerella arenosa* var. *argillosa* habitat, by B. Heidel.

**Habitat:** Dry, open, sparsely-vegetated rocky slopes with whitish yellow or gray limestone and shale, derived from the Niobrara formation. The soils are silty, gravelly or loamy and may be seleniferous, and sloping or flat. Elevation 4200-2600 ft. (Marriott 1992, Beatty et al. 2003, Heidel 2010).

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from one occurrence in Wyoming, most recently observed in 2009. Also recorded as present in nearby roadbeds where it was brought in with road surfacing material. The latter are represented as separate occurrences but do not contribute to species' viability and may signify net habitat loss.

**Abundance:** Known from 50,000-100,000 plants in about ca 750 acres spanning ca. 50 mi<sup>2</sup> (Heidel 2010).

**Trends:** Not known.

**Protection status:** Known populations are on public or private lands managed for multiple use.

**Threats:** Quarrying, wind energy developments and spread of introduced species are potential threats.

**Managed Areas:** Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Newcastle Field Office and the state.

**References:**

Beatty, B., W. Jennings, R. Rawlinson. 2003. *Lesquerella arenosa* var. *argillosa* (Great Plains bladderpod): A Technical Conservation Assessment. Report prepared for USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. CDM, Denver, CO. 44 pp.

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Heidel, B. 2010. Status report on *Lesquerella arenosa* var. *argillosa* (Sidesaddle bladderpod) in Wyoming. Prepared for the

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Marriott, H.J. 1992. Field survey for *Aster mollis*, *Astragalus barii* and *Lesquerella arenosa* var. *argillosa* in northeast and central Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for the Casper District, Bureau of Land Management by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.

Rollins, R.C. 1993. The Cruciferae of Continental North America, Systematics of the Mustard Family from the Arctic to Panama. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA.

Rollins, R.C., and Shaw, E.A. 1973. The Genus *Lesquerella* (Cruciferae) in North America. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge, MA.

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