

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

LESQUERELLA PARVULA
NARROWLEAVED BLADDERPOD
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G3?Q State: S2

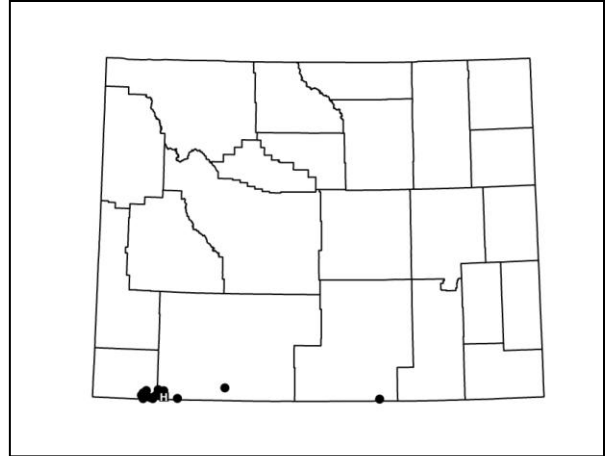
Range Context: Regional Endemic/Edge

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

Description: Narrowleaf bladderpod is a matted, densely pubescent (hairs appressed and felt-like) perennial herb with stems 3-10 cm high arising from a branched, woody caudex. Leaves are mostly clustered at the base, thread-like, 1-3 cm long, and are not differentiated into a distinct blade and petiole. The inflorescence is a narrow raceme borne well above the leaves and consists of 5-15 yellow, 4-petaled flowers 5-8 mm long. Fruits are cylindrical inflated pods borne on upcurved or S-shaped pedicels (Rollins 1993; Welsh et al. 1993).

Synonyms: *Lesquerella alpina* ssp. *parvula*.

Similar Species: *Lesquerella alpina* var. *condensata* has a condensed inflorescence that barely (if at all) exceeds the basal leaves and a shaggy pubescence due to its long-stalked hairs. *L. alpina* var. *alpina* (and the segregate taxon var. *spatulata*) typically has broader leaves divided into a definite petiole and blade. *L. ludoviciana* has leaves well distributed along the stem, and glabrate fruits with styles much longer than the fruit body. All other species of *Lesquerella* in Wyoming have leaves with clearly distinguishable blades and petioles (Dorn 2001).



Wyoming distribution of *Lesquerella parvula*.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May - July.

Distribution: Regional endemic of Colorado, northeastern Utah, and southwestern Wyoming. In Wyoming it is known from the Sierra Madre and Uinta mountains and Green River Basin in Carbon, Sweetwater and Uinta counties.

Habitat: Cushion plant or sagebrush and juniper grassland communities on windswept ridges, gravelly hills, rocky knolls, or clay hillsides at 6400-9100 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from one historical and 14 extant populations in Wyoming. The most recently discovered population was in 2004.

Abundance: Not known, but usually described as "local" or "low" at known sites.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One population on Cedar Mountain and one on Hickey Mountain are within the Special Status Plant ACEC established by the BLM for *Thelesperma pubescens*. All but one of the other occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Populations may be vulnerable to surface disturbances along rim areas.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the BLM Kemmerer and Rock Springs Field Offices, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and possibly the Medicine Bow National Forest.

References:

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O'Kane, Steve L. (2006, March 21). *Lesquerella parvula* Greene (pygmy bladderpod): A Technical Conservation Assessment. [Online]. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/>. [accessed 02/05/2009].

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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.

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