

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*LISTERA CONVALLARIOIDES*  
BROAD-LEAVED TWAYBLADE  
Family: Orchidaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low  
Conservation Priority)

Description: Broad-leaved twayblade is a perennial herb, mostly 10-35 cm tall, with the stems glandular-pubescent above the leaves and glabrous below. Stems bear a single pair of broadly ovate to nearly round, opposite leaves. The inflorescence is a terminal raceme with 5-25 (up to 35) flowers. Individual flowers are small, and yellow-green, with sepals and petals strongly curved back. The lowest petal (lip) strongly tapers to the base, and has ciliate margins and two rounded bumps (rather than teeth) near the base (Hitchcock et al. 1969; Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Listera borealis* has a lip which is little, if at all, narrowed toward the base. *L. caurina* has sepals and petals spreading or only slightly reflexed and a lip with two narrow, lateral teeth. *L. cordata* has leaves which are roughly heart-shaped at the base, and a lip that is deeply divided into two narrowly-triangular lobes.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July - September.

Distribution: Alaska to Newfoundland, south to California, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. In Wyoming it is known from the Teton, Medicine Bow, Laramie and Bighorn ranges



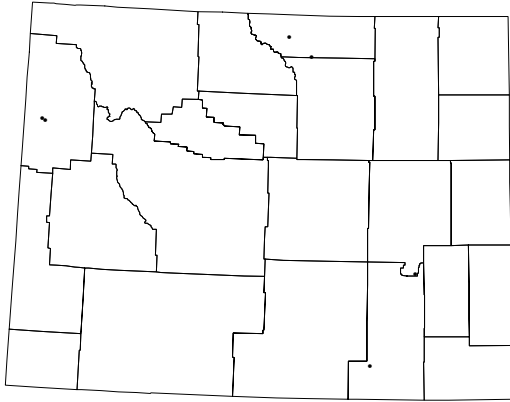
Above: *Listera convallarioides* by William Jennings.

in Albany, Converse, Sheridan, and Teton Counties.

Habitat: In Wyoming, found along streambanks, lake margins, and moist, shaded areas in coniferous forest and moist, grassy areas under aspen and alder at 6400-9000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 extant occurrences and 2 historical records.

Abundance: Evert noted populations of several hundred individuals near Story in 1985. Census data are lacking for other populations.



Wyoming distribution of *Listera convallarioides*.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: Two populations are protected within Grand Teton National Park. Other known occurrences are on public or state lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be threatened by overcollection, loss of moist forest habitat to logging, and impacts from recreation.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Targhee National Forests and Grand Teton National Park. An historical record from the Laramie Basin may be on lands managed by the BLM Rawlins Field Office.

References:

Colorado Native Plant Society. 1997. Rare Plants of Colorado, second edition. Falcon Press Publ., Helena, MT.

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. Volume 6, The Monocotyledons. Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA. Columbia University Press, New York.

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Evert, E. F. 1985. Rare Plants: Story Area. Unpublished report prepared by the author.

Fertig, W. 1999. The status of rare plants in the Bighorn Landscape. Report prepared for The Nature Conservancy Wyoming Field Office by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, Wyoming.

Girard, M. 1992. Sensitive and Watch Plant Species of the Bighorn National Forest. Bighorn National Forest, 1969 S. Sheridan Ave., Sheridan, WY.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, and M. Owenbey. 1969. Pt. 1. Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons, IN: Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Owenbey, and J.W. Thompson (eds). Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Publications in Biology 17(1): 1-914.

Porter, C.L. 1965. A Flora of Wyoming: Part IV. Bulletin 434:1-88. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wyoming.

Author: Stuart Markow and Walter Fertig  
Updated: 00-11-25