

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*LOMATIUM BICOLOR* VAR. *BICOLOR*  
WASATCH BISCUITROOT  
Family: APIACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4T3T4 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional  
Endemic (Watch List)

Description: Wasatch biscuitroot is a glabrous or minutely scabrous perennial forb 10-40 cm tall with a bulbous-thickened taproot and buried stem bases (pseudostem). The parsley-like leaves are ternate-pinnately compound, and have slender ultimate segments about 0.5 mm wide by 2-7 mm long. The inflorescence is a compound umbel of globe-shaped, yellow flower clusters borne on unequal stalks (rays) subtended by slender involucre bracts 2-3 mm long. Fruiting stalks are usually 3 mm or less long and erect. Fruits are narrow, flat, 7-12 mm long, and densely clustered (Cronquist et al. 1997; Dorn 1992).

Identification Comments: Bulbous taproot, buried root crowns, and fern-like leaves with ultimate segments mostly less than 0.5 mm wide are distinctive.

Similar Species: *Lomatium bicolor* var. *leptocarpum* has ultimate leaf segments about 1 mm wide and often over 7 mm long. *L. grayi* does not have a bulbous-shaped taproot and has individual fruiting stalks over 4mm long.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-July.

Distribution: Regional endemic of Wasatch Range in northeast Utah, the Bear River and Caribou ranges of eastern Idaho, and the mountains of far-western Wyoming, with a disjunct population reported in Gunnison County, Colorado. Wyoming populations occur in the Wyoming, Salt River, and Teton ranges and the southern Overthrust Belt in Lincoln, Sublette, Teton, and Uinta counties.

Habitat: Occurs in moist to fairly dry slopes and meadows, often in clay-rich soils in montane valleys and foothill pine forests (Cronquist et al. 1997). Wyoming populations are found in grassy montane meadows and forest edges on clay-loam soils or in alkali sagebrush communities at 7500-8500 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from approximately 20 extant occurrences and 4 historical records in Wyoming. At least 9 populations have been newly discovered or relocated since 1990.

Abundance: Populations may be locally abundant.

Trends: Probably stable.

Protection status: One population occurs in Fossil Butte National Monument. All other populations are found on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known. Plants appear to tolerate soil disturbance from gophers and grazing.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests, Fossil Butte National Monument, and the BLM Rock Springs Field Office.

References:

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- Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.
- Fertig, W. 2000. Vascular plant species checklist and rare plants of Fossil Butte National Monument. Report prepared for the National Park Service Northern Colorado Plateau Network by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.
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