**State Species Abstract** - Wyoming Natural Diversity Database

**Machaeranthera bigelovii var. bigelovii**

**Bigelow's Tansy-Aster**

Family: Asteraceae

### Status:
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:
Global: G4G5  State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic (Medium conservation priority)

### Description:
Bigelow's tansy-aster is a taprooted annual, biennial or short-lived perennial herb with stems 10-35 cm high. Upper stems (especially below the inflorescence) and leaf margins are prominently glandular. Leaves are 1-8 cm long with coarsely-toothed edges and nearly glabrous except for the margins. Flower heads are arranged in a branched, flat-topped inflorescence. Involucre bracts are 10-15 mm high, bi-colored (green above and white at the base), overlap in multiple rows, and have recurved to spreading, glandular tips. Ray flowers are 8-15 mm long, and violet, pink, or purple. Fruits are glabrous achenes with off-white pappus bristles (Harrington 1954; Turner 1987; Dorn 1992).

### Similar Species:
Machaeranthera canescens var. canescens has ashy-gray pubescent leaves and stems with few or no glands below the inflorescence. *M. canescens* var. glabra has mostly glabrous foliage (except for some cilia on the leaf margins). Aster spp. have straight rather than recurved involucre bracts (Dorn 1992).

### Flowering/Fruiting Period:
July – September.

### Distribution:
Regional endemic of SE Wyoming, C Colorado, and NC New Mexico (Turner 1987). In Wyoming it is known only from Laramie Range in Albany County.

### Habitat:
Rangewide, this taxon occurs in mountain brush, aspen, spruce-fir forest, montane grassland and alpine meadow communities. Wyoming populations are found in open shortgrass prairie on dry granite gravels at 7500-8600 feet.

### Occurrences in Wyoming:
Known from a single extant record in Wyoming (last observed in 1992) and one vague historical report (1928). A report from Albany County (Keil 10908, AZ) cited in Turner (1987) has not been confirmed, although Turner says the specimen "approaches M. canescens".

### Abundance:
Not known.

### Trends:
Not known.

### Protection status:
All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

### Threats:
Not known.
Managed Areas: Occurs on Medicine Bow National Forest.

References:


Author: Stuart Markow and Walter Fertig
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