

-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:

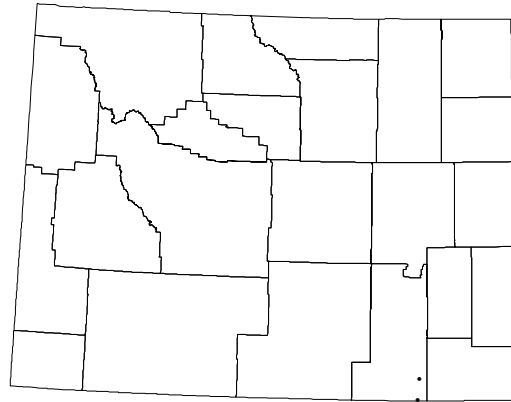
Global: G4G5 State: S1

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.



Wyoming distribution of *Machaeranthera bigelovii*.

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:

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

Harrington, H. D. 1954. Manual of the Plants of Colorado. Sage Books, Chicago, IL.

Turner, B.L. 1987. Taxonomic study of *Machaeranthera*, sections *Machaeranthera* and *Hesperastrum* (Asteraceae). *Phytologia* 62:207-266.

Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora, second edition, revised. Brigham Young University Print Services, Provo, UT.

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