

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

MACHAERANTHERA COLORADOENSIS
VAR. *COLORADOENSIS*
COLORADO TANSY-ASTER
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: USFS R2 Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G2T2? State: S2
WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(High conservation priority)

Description: Colorado tansy-aster is a tap-rooted perennial herb with grayish-white pubescent stems 4-10 cm high. Leaves are coarsely toothed, spoon-shaped to linear, 1-4 cm long, densely hairy, and clustered at the base of the stem. Flower heads are large, solitary and borne on short stalks. Involucre bracts are sharp-tipped and in 2-3 overlapping rows. The ray flowers are pink, rose, or purple and 8-10 mm long (Harrington 1954; Fertig et al. 1994).

Synonyms: *Haplopappus coloradoensis*.

Similar Species: *Machaeranthera tanacetifolia* has once or twice pinnately lobed leaves and taller, leafier stems. *Townsendia* spp. have smooth-margined leaves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-September.

Distribution: Regional endemic of southeastern Wyoming and central Colorado. In Wyoming, found in the foothills of the Laramie and Medicine Bow ranges and Sierra Madre in Albany and Carbon counties.

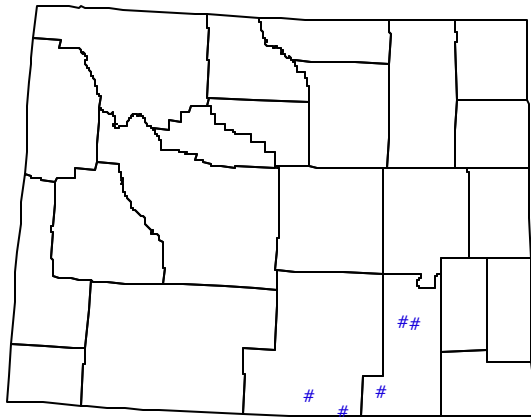


Above and Below: *Machaeranthera coloradensis*, drawing by R. Jones, photo by C. Delmatier.



Habitat: Barren cushion plant and sparse grassland communities on limey-sandstone, shaley-gypsum, or redbed slopes and outcrops at 8,100-7800 ft. Historical Wyoming reports from dry tundra at 10800 feet have not been corroborated. Occurs with *Eriogonum exilifolium*, *Lesquerella alpina*, *Artemisia* spp., *Senecio canus*, *Astragalus kentrophyta*, and *Erigeron nematophyllus*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 extant occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1996 (most recently in 1999). Also known from one vague, historical record on Bridger Peak which has not been relocated despite several attempts and is probably erroneous.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Machaeranthera coloradoensis*.

Abundance: Extant populations are mostly small (often numbering in the low hundreds) and restricted in area.

Trends: Trends not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on state or public lands managed for multiple use. Some habitat may occur within the potential Sheep Mountain Research Natural Area or a nearby Nature Conservancy conservation easement.

Threats: Unknown.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Medicine Bow National Forest

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