

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

MARSILEA VESTITA VAR. *OLIGOSPORA*
PEPPERWORT
Family: Marsilaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Low conservation priority)

Description: Pepperwort is an aquatic perennial rhizomatous herb with leaves that float on water or stand upright. Leaves resemble a four-leaf clover, are hairy or not, and are on a slender stalk up to 15 cm tall. Spore-containing receptacles are on short stalks at the leaf base or along the rhizomes. Each has a small, blunt tooth off to one side, sometimes with a second smaller bump-like tooth above it (Dorn 1992, Goodding 1902).

Synonyms: *Marsilea oligospora* (Goodding 1902).

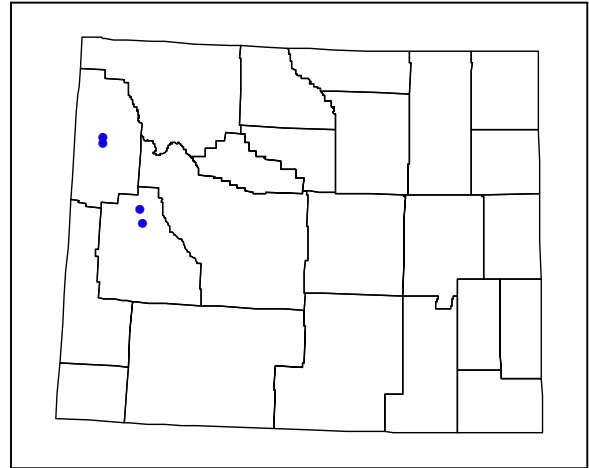
Similar Species: *Marsilea vestitata* var. *vestitata* has a receptacle with two teeth, with the upper long and slender and is only known from eastern Wyoming.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Producing spores in July - August.

Distribution: Ranging from Washington to California, extending east to Montana, Wyoming and Utah. In Wyoming, it is only known from Jackson Hole and historically from the upper Green River Valley (Teton and Sublette counties.)

Goodding (1902) reports the type as being from Jackson's Lake, Uinta County, but this site is now located in Teton County.

Habitat: Found on shores of small lakes and ponds that often dry during summer, at elevations of 6,600 - 7,800 ft.



Wyoming distribution of *Marsilea vestita* var. *oligospora*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from one extant record (last observed in 1973) and 3-4 historical reports in Wyoming.

Abundance: Reported as "locally common" at one site in Grand Teton National Park by Richard Shaw and as "abundant" at the type locality by Nelson and Nelson in 1899.

Trends: May be extirpated at sites in the foothills of the Wind River Range. It has not been collected since 1963.

Protection status: 2-3 populations occur in Grand Teton National Park. Other known sites are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be impacted by water development and recreation.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Grand Teton National Park and may occur in Bridger-Teton National Forest.

References:

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, and J.L. Reveal. 1972. Intermountain Flora, Volume 1: Geological and Botanical History of the Region, its Plant Geography and a Glossary. The Vascular Cryptogams and the Gymnosperms. The New York Botanical Garden, New York.

Goodding, L. 1902. Rocky Mountain plant studies 1. Botanical Gazette 33:66-67.

Porter, C.L. 1962. A Flora of Wyoming, Part 1. Bulletin 402:1-39. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wyoming.

Author: Bonnie Heidel and Walter Fertig
Updated: 01-09-14

