

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*MENTZELIA RUSBYI*  
RUSBY'S STICKLEAF  
Family: Loasaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

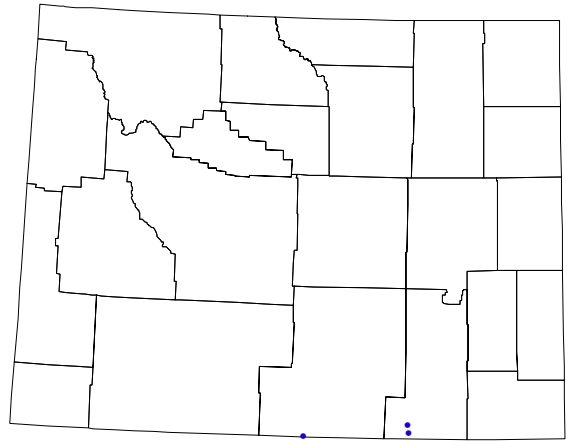
Global: G3G4 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low  
conservation priority)

Description: Rusby's stickleaf is a taprooted biennial or short-lived perennial herb with whitish, usually branched stems 10-50 cm tall. Lower leaves are lance-shaped to oblong, with entire to wavy or coarsely toothed margins, 5-20 cm long, and petioled. Upper leaves are sessile, coarsely-toothed, and 3-7 cm long. All leaves are covered with short, stiff, hooked hairs which give the leaves a rough texture and cause them to readily adhere to clothes or hair. Flowers have 8 creamy-yellow petals (technically 5 petals and 3 expanded petal-like stamens) that are 1.5-3 cm long and 4-8 mm wide and calyx lobes 5.4-8 cm long. Fruits are cylindrical capsules 15-30 mm long with oval, broadly winged seeds (Hill 1975; Welsh et al. 1993).

Synonyms: *Mentzelia nuda* var. *rusbyi*, *M. pumila* var. *rusbyi*, *Nuttallia rusbyi*.

Similar Species: *Mentzelia decapetala* has petals over 4 cm long and calyx lobes over 18 mm long. *M. pumila* has petals less than 15 mm long. *M. multiflora* has floral bracts with entire margins. *M. nuda* has petals 25-40 mm long.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July - August.



Wyoming distribution of *Mentzelia rusbyi*.

Distribution: Occurs from southeast Wyoming to southern New Mexico, central Arizona, and eastern Utah. In Wyoming it is known from the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow Range in Albany and Carbon counties.

Habitat: Open parks and moist meadows (Hill 1975). Wyoming populations are often found along gravelly roadcuts at 6600-7800 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 recent observations (observed most recently in 1973) and one historical record in Wyoming.

Abundance: Population size is not known, but presumed to be small.

Trends: Not known.

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

Threats: May be impacted by roadside herbicide spraying.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Medicine Bow National Forest and possibly the BLM Rawlins Field Office.

References:

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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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