

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

NAJAS GUADALUPENSIS
SOUTHERN NAIAD
NAJADACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral
(Low conservation priority)

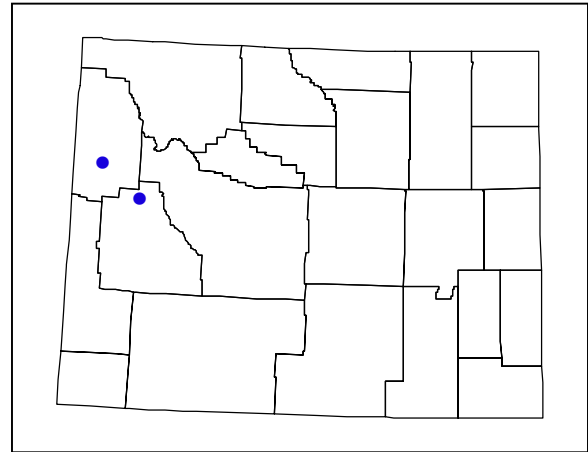
Description: Southern naiad is a submersed annual aquatic plant with slender, branched stems up to 7 dm long. The opposite, ribbon-like leaves are 0.5-2.5 cm long, 0.5-2 mm wide, usually with additional leaves in their axils, minutely-toothed, and enlarged at the base. Tiny unisexual flowers are sessile and borne singly in the leaf axils, with both male and female flowers on the same plant. The male flowers have a single stamen enclosed in a translucent bract that is surrounded by a firmer bract, and the female flowers consist of a single naked pistil. The fruits are single-seeded with a thin, papery covering. The long, tapered seeds are round in cross-section, dull, and coarsely-pitted with 10-20 rows of pits across the middle (Cronquist et al. 1977, Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: Species of *Potamogeton* have flowers clustered at the top of stems and generally have alternate leaves, as does *Ruppia maritima*. *Zanichellia palustris* has axillary flowers and opposite leaves but there are 2+ flowers per leaf axil.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution: Ranging across North and South America, from Oregon to Baja

California, and from Texas, Colorado, Wyoming and the Dakotas east through the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. Known in Wyoming from one occurrence in Jackson Hole (Teton County) and reported from Kendall Warm Springs on the west side of the Wind River Range (Sublette County.)



Wyoming distribution of *Najas guadalupensis*

Habitat: Open water of ponds and streams, and associated with thermal springs in Wyoming, at 6700 ft.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from one confirmed location in the state and reported from one additional locality.

Abundance: Population size is not known, but total range is less than 5 acres.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One occurrence is found in Grand Teton National Park. May also occur within the Kendall Warm Springs Special Interest Area on Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Threats: May be threatened by high recreation use of its habitat and competition from exotics.

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

References:

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