

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*OXYTHECA DENDROIDEA*  
TREE-LIKE OXYTHECA  
Family: Polygonaceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4State: SH

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low  
conservation priority)

Description: Tree-like oxytheca is an erect, multi-branched annual herb 5-40 cm tall and wide. Stems are sparsely to densely glandular and green to reddish purple. Leaves are mostly all basal, linear to oblanceolate, 1-4.5 cm long, 0.1-0.7 cm wide, and densely pubescent with coarse, stiff hairs. Flowers are in clusters of 2-6 within bristle-tipped involucre arranged in an open, multi-branched inflorescence. The perianth is 1-2 mm long and composed of 6 white or pink tepals. Fruits are yellow-brown achenes 1-2 mm long (Ertter 1980; Dorn 1992; Jones and Fertig 1996).

Similar Species:

Annual species of *Eriogonum* and *Stenogonum salsuginosum* have involucre without bristle tips.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers and fruits June-September.

Distribution: In Wyoming, known from historical records in the Green River Basin (Sweetwater or possibly Sublette Cos), Owl Creek Range (Hot Springs Co.), and the South Pass area (Fremont Co.).

Habitat: Occurs in dry, sandy to rocky desert habitats, often in association with dunes and dirt roads (Ertter 1980). Wyoming populations occur in desert hills and sandy roadsides at 6600-7000 feet. This species may be an ephemeral, present only when sufficient spring or summer moisture is present.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from only three historical records in Wyoming, all observed between 1873 and 1922.

Abundance: No extant populations are known in Wyoming.

Trends: Not known, may be extirpated?

Protection status: No occurrences are known from lands receiving special management attention.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Historical occurrences are probably from lands managed by the BLM Rock Springs, Lander, and Worland Field Offices.

References:

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

Ertter, B. 1980. A revision of the genus *Oxytheca* Nutt. (Polygonaceae). Brittonia 32 (1): 70-102.

Jones, G. and W. Fertig. 1996. Plant associations and plant species of special concern in the Jack Morrow Hills Ecosystem. Unpublished report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs District by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Porter, C.L. 1968. A Flora of Wyoming: Part VI. Research Journal 20:1-63. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wyoming.

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