

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

OXYTROPIS BESSEYI VAR.
OBNAPIFORMIS
MAYBELL LOCOWEED
Family: Fabaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T2 State: S1

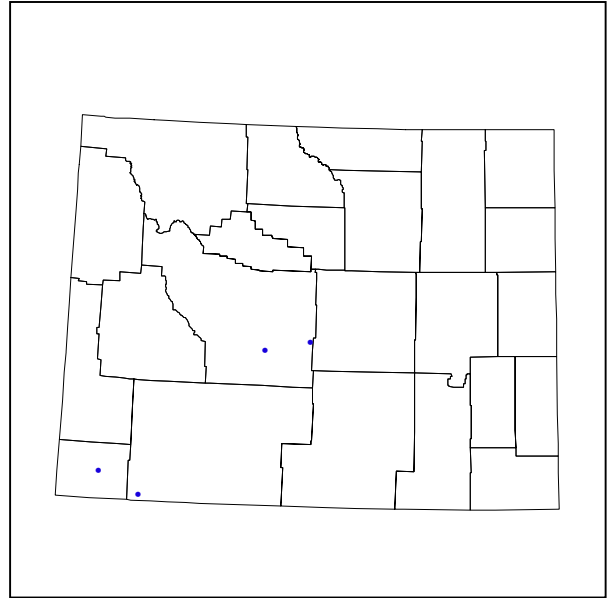
WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Maybell locoweed is a densely hairy perennial herb with a stout taproot and stems up to 20 cm tall. Leaves are all basal, 10-20 cm long, usually equaling or surpassing the flowering stems, and have 9-15 leaflets. Hairs are basally attached to the leaves. Flower stems are 2-19 cm tall, each with 3-20 (rarely up to 29) pink to purple pea flowers. The calyx is less than 5 mm wide. Pods are papery, sessile or nearly so, hairy, and strongly inflated (Barneby 1989).

Synonyms: *Oxytropis obnapiformis*;
Oxytropis nana var. *obnapiformis*.

Similar Species: *Oxytropis bessyi* var. *ventosa* has leaves shorter than stems (each with 5-9 leaflets) and flowers clustered at the top of the stems. *O. besseyi* var. *fallax* has leaves much shorter than the flowering stems. *O. nana* has an inflated calyx 6 mm or more wide, with shorter (2-3 mm) teeth, and usually has shorter leaves. *O. lambertii* has hairs attached at points near the middle rather than at the bases. *O. splendens* has fascicled leaflets and grows on more mesic sites (Barneby 1989, Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-July



Wyoming distribution of *Oxytropis besseyi* var. *obnapiformis*.

Distribution: Regional endemic of northeastern Utah, southwestern Wyoming, and northwestern Colorado. In Wyoming, known from the Green River Basin, Sweetwater River Plateau, and North Platte River Valley in Fremont, Natrona, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties. Reported for the Bighorn Range by Porter (1947), but these specimens were later transferred to var. *fallax* by Barneby in 1952.

Habitat: Reported from pinyon-juniper or sagebrush communities on sandy or clay desert hills and barrens (Barneby 1989, Welsh et al. 1993). Wyoming populations are found on dry sandy, silty, chalky, or redbed clay slopes, hills, and ridges in sparsely vegetated cushion plant communities at 5600-7100 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming:

Known from four extant and one historical record from Wyoming (most recently observed in 1997).

Abundance: One location was estimated at 50 plants and another at 250-500 during surveys in 1997. Population data are not available for the other sites.

Trends: Probably stable.

Protection status: No populations are known from special management areas (although the species could occur in the Beaver Rim ACEC in the BLM Lander Field Office).

Threats: May be threatened by habitat loss resulting from road construction associated with mineral development or off-road vehicle recreation.

Managed Areas: Occurs on land managed by the BLM Lander and Kemmerer Field Offices.

References:

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