

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PAPAVER KLUANENSE
ALPINE POPPY
Family: Papaveraceae

Status:

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

Heritage Rank:

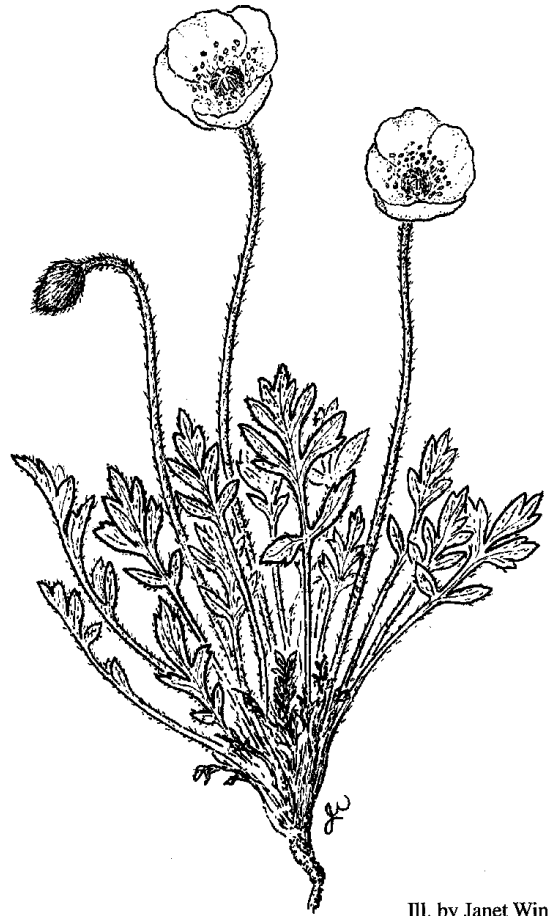
Global: G3?Q State: S2
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct (Low
Conservation Priority)

Description: Arctic poppy is a short tufted perennial herb with stems up to 15 cm high and covered with soft, spreading hairs. Leaves are all basal, the blades blue-green, sparsely hairy, and divided into 3-5 lobes (the lobes sometimes notched). Flowers are solitary at the ends of stems, with two sepals which fall off shortly after the flower opens and four yellow to greenish-yellow petals, each about 1 cm long. Capsules are about 1 cm long and covered with stiff brownish hairs (Welsh 1973, Cody 1996).

Similar Species: Species of *Ranunculus* typically have 5 or more bright yellow petals and fruits consisting of multiple, flattened, beaked achenes. *Papaver somniferum* is an introduced annual with large red petals and erect, leafy stems over 30 cm tall.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Late June-August.

Distribution: Southern Alaska south along the Rocky Mountains to northern New Mexico. In Wyoming, known from alpine areas of the Absaroka, Bighorn, and Wind River ranges.

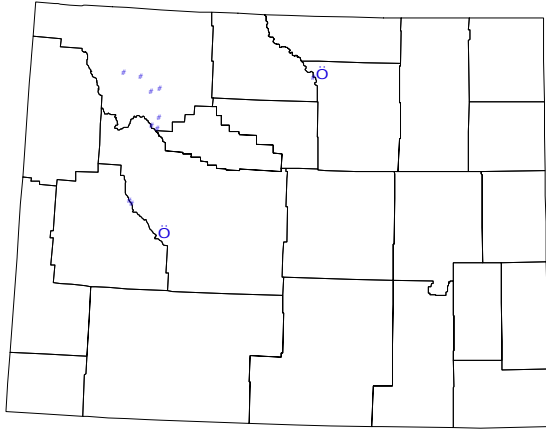


Ill. by Janet Wing

Above: *P. kluanense* by Janet Wingate from Spackman et al. (1997).

Habitat: Alpine meadows, talus slopes and fellfields. Elevation ranges from 10800-12300 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from at least 9 extant occurrences in Wyoming and 1 historical record. Four populations have been observed since 1990. Additional populations have been reported for Fremont and Johnson counties by Scott (1997).



Wyoming distribution of *Papaver kluanense*.

Abundance: Census data are lacking for nearly all known populations. Occurrences studied by Fertig (1990-97) have all been small and highly localized.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: At least 4 occurrences are protected within National Forest Wilderness Areas (Cloud Peak, Bridger, and Washakie). An additional population is also protected within the BLM Carter Mountain ACEC. One population is found within the potential Sheep Mesa Research Natural Area. This species is listed as Sensitive on the Idaho National Forests within USFS Region 4.

Threats: Probably unthreatened in rugged alpine habitat.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Bighorn, Bridger-Teton, and Shoshone National Forests and the BLM Cody Field Office.

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