PARONYCHIA PULVINATA  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NAILWORT  
Family: Caryophyllaceae

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

Heritage Rank:  
Global: G3  State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic  
(Medium conservation priority)

Description:  
Rocky Mountain nailwort is a cushion-like perennial herb with stems 3-5 cm tall. The densely matted, thick leaves are bright green, 3-6 mm long, and oval to elliptic with blunt tips. Associated with the leaves are large, persistent, silvery-translucent stipules 2-4 mm long. The greenish-yellow flowers are solitary, apetalous, and embedded among the leaves. Flowers have 5 sharp pointed sepals and 5 stamens (Fertig 1993, Harrington 1954).

Similar Species:  
Paronychia sessiliflora has sharp-pointed leaves and is found at lower elevations. Vegetative specimens of Phlox pulvinata have broader, whitish-green leaves with conspicuously ciliate margins. Vegetative specimens of Minuartia obtusiloba have yellowish-green leaves and lacks silvery stipules. Silene acaulis in vegetative condition has grass-green leaves that are typically long and narrow and are finely saw-toothed on the margins.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.

Distribution:  
Regional endemic of SE Wyoming, C Colorado, and N New Mexico. In Wyoming, known only from the Medicine Bow Range in Albany and Carbon Counties.

Habitat:  
Cushion plant communities on windy alpine boulder slopes, fellfields, and gravel beds interspersed among Geum rossii turf mats at 10150-12000 feet. Found in gravelly-sandy soils in small ledges and cracks within quartz or sandstone.

Occurrences in Wyoming:  
Known from 5 occurrences in Wyoming, several of which cover a relatively large geographic area.
Wyoming distribution of Paronychia pulvinata.

**Abundance:** Populations are generally small and restricted to specialized microhabitats.

**Trends:** Populations are assumed to be stable, although no long-term trend data are available.

**Protection status:** One occurrence is found within the Medicine Bow Peak Special Botanical Area on Medicine Bow National Forest. All other occurrences are found on public lands which receive no special management.

**Threats:** The plant's matted growth form protects it from grazing and trampling impacts.

**Managed Areas:** Known populations are found on Medicine Bow National Forest (Brush Creek and Laramie Ranger Districts) and BLM Rawlins Field Office.

**References:**


**Author:** Walter Fertig  
**Updated:** 00-12-22