

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*PEDIOMELUM DIGITATUM*  
PALM-LEAVED SCURF PEA  
Family: Fabaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

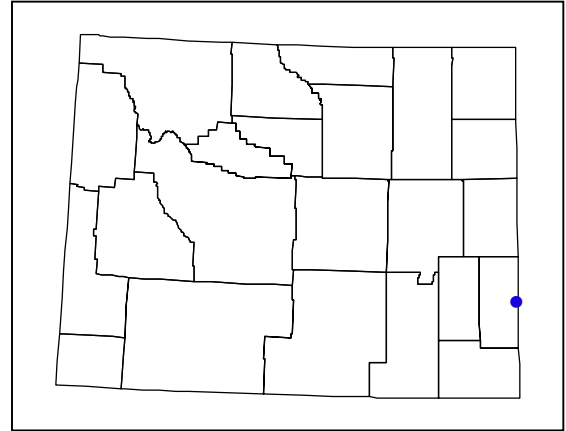
Medium Wyoming Significance

Description: Palm-leaved scurfpea is a perennial herb with a thick, woody base and erect, branched stems 3-8 (up to 10) dm tall. Leaves are palmately compound, mostly with 5 narrow leaflets 2-7 cm long and 2-8 mm wide, which are glandular dotted on the upper surface, and densely silky-hairy below. The pea-flowers are in whorls of 3-7 (up to 11), on long (10-18 cm) stalks emanating from the leaf axils. The calyx is densely hairy, and consists of a tubular portion 2.5-3.2 mm long, terminated by 5 very uneven lobes. Corolla is bluish to purple (rarely white), fading to brown. The fruit is a legume 7-8 mm long enclosed in the enlarged calyx (Great Plains Flora Association 1986, Dorn 2001).

Synonyms: *Psoralea digitata*

Similar Species: *Pediomelum esculentum* lacks glands, has densely hairy stems, and leaflets that are broadly elliptic to ovate. *P. argophyllum* has densely silvery-hairy stems. *P. hypogeum* has short (less than 5 cm), densely-flowered stems. *Lupinus* species have flowers individually inserted on the stems, rather than in whorls (Dorn 2001).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May - July.



Wyoming distribution of *Pediomelum digitatum*

Distribution: South Dakota south to Texas, west to Colorado and Wyoming (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming known only from the eastern plains near the Nebraska state line in Goshen County.

Habitat: Reported from sandy prairies, gravelly hillsides, sand dunes, sandy open wooded hillsides, and stream valleys across its range (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming, this species occurs in sand hills at 4200 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from a single occurrence in Wyoming, discovered in 1991.

Abundance: Population size not known, but total occupied area is quite small (less than 40 acres of known habitat in Wyoming).

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: No occurrences are found on lands receiving special protection or management.

Threats: Threats not known.

Managed Areas: Found partially on lands managed by the BLM Casper District and on adjacent private lands.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Harrington, H. D. 1954. Manual of the Plants of Colorado. Sage Books, Chicago, IL.

Isely, D. 1998. Native and Naturalized Leguminosae (Fabaceae) of the United States (exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii). Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, UT.

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