

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PELLAEA SUKSDORFIANA
SMOOTH CLIFF-BRAKE
Family: Pteridaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T4? State: S1

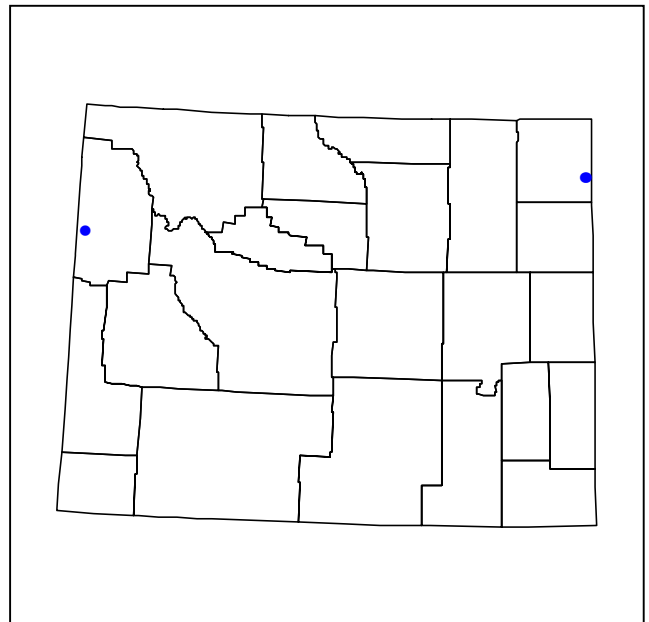
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

(Low Conservation Priority)



Description: Smooth cliff-brake is a perennial fern with crowded fronds from a scaly, branched rhizome. Leafstalks are reddish brown to purplish, glabrous to sparsely hairy, and rarely have horizontal grooves. The oblong leaf blades are 2.5-10 cm long, 1.5-4 cm wide, once-pinnate above and twice pinnate at the base, and have a glabrous, brown rachis. The lowest pair of pinnae typically have 3-5 secondary leaflets on a very short, glabrate stalk that diverges at less than a 45 degree angle. Ultimate segments of the leaflets are glabrous, leathery, 5-20 mm long, and have inrolled margins forming a "false indusium" that covers the sporangia. Spores number 32 per sporangium (Dorn 1992; Windham 1993; Lellinger 1985).

Similar Species: *Pellaea occidentalis* has 3 or fewer secondary leaflets on the lowest, essentially sessile pinnae and 64 spores per sporangium. *P. breweri* has numerous persistent petiole bases marked with a series of horizontal grooves. *P. atropurpurea* and *P. gastonyi* have pubescent rachises, and twice pinnately compound leaves with the lowest pinnae borne on a hairy stalk at a 45 degree angle (Dorn 1992; Windham 1993).



Wyoming distribution of *Pellaea suksdorfiana*.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Spores produced in late summer and fall.

Distribution: British Columbia to Washington, Wyoming, and New Mexico. In Wyoming, known from the Black Hills in Crook County and Teton Range in Teton County.

Habitat: Cliffs and ledges, usually on limestone.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 extant occurrences in Wyoming, most recently observed in 1984.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known populations are on public lands managed or multiple use.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Black Hills and Targhee National Forests.

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