

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*PHYSARIA EBURNIFLORA*  
DEVIL'S GATE TWINPOD  
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None; formerly a C2 candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Agency Status: WY BLM: Proposed Sensitive

Heritage Rank: Global: G3 State: S3  
WYNDD Plant List: State endemic  
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Devil's Gate twinpod is a tufted, silvery-pubescent perennial herb with prostrate stems less than 8 cm long. The spoon-shaped leaves are entire, round-tipped, 1.5-2.5 cm long, and arranged in a flattened rosette. Flowers are whitish or pale yellow, 9-12 mm long, and borne on prostrate stems 1-5 cm long. The fruits are inflated, 2-lobed, less than 1 cm wide, and densely pubescent with shaggy, spreading hairs. The membranous partition (replum) between each half of the fruit is obovate and bears 4 stubby, persistent stalks (funiculi) on each face (Fertig et al. 1994).

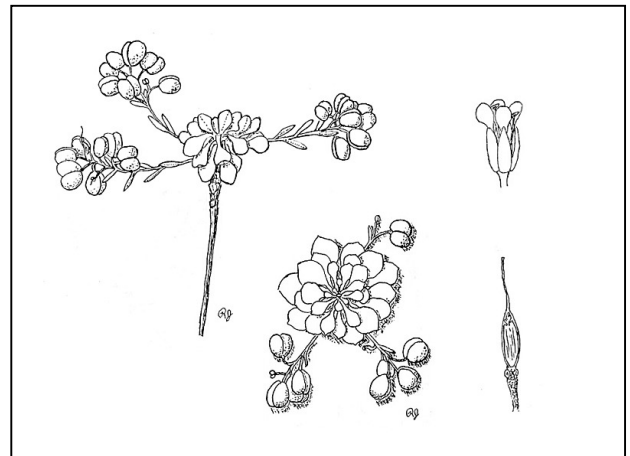
Similar Species: *Physaria condensata* has appressed pubescence on the fruits, deeper yellow flowers, and more pointed leaves. *P. didymocarpa* has erect fruiting stems that exceed the basal leaves by more than 3 cm and may have toothed leaves. *P. acutifolia* differs in having a more erect growth form, longer leaves, and fruits with narrowly linear partitions bearing 2 funiculi on each face.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers from May-June; fruits present June-July.

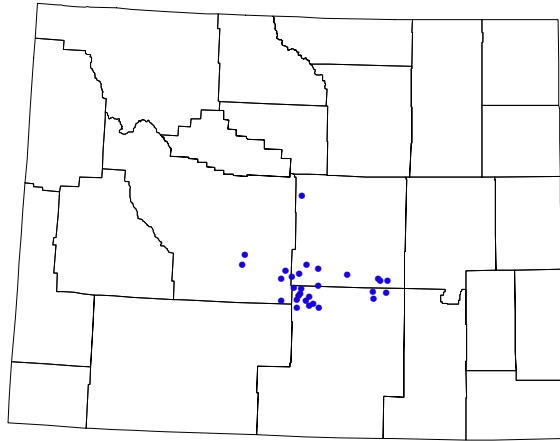


Above: *Physaria eburniflora* in flower by Walter Fertig. Note the whitish-yellow color of the petals, which differs from the deep yellow of all other Wyoming members of this genus.

Below: *P. eburniflora* by Robin Jones from Fertig et al. (1993).



Distribution: Endemic to the Sweetwater and North Platte River basins in central Wyoming (Carbon, Fremont, and Natrona Cos). Its range is centered in the Muddy Gap/Ferris Mountains area and the Granite Mountains. Peripheral populations are found along Beaver Rim and on the eastern edge of Bates Hole.



Wyoming distribution of *Physaria eburniflora*.

**Habitat:** Occurs in wind-blasted cushion plant communities with low vegetative cover on calcareous ridges and slopes, thin soil pockets in granite outcrops, or crumbly sandstone/limestone deposits at 6100-9700 feet.

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from 27 confirmed occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been observed since 1979 (most recently in 1998).

**Abundance:** The total state population probably numbers between 15,000-20,000 plants. Populations are often small, with individual plants clustered (clusters themselves may be widely spaced). Larger colonies may have 500-1000 plants.

**Trends:** Based on surveys in 1993, populations appear stable (although no long term trend data are available).

**Protection status:** All known populations occur on state and public lands managed for multiple use.

**Threats:** Some populations are potentially threatened by surface disturbance associated with mineral exploration and development and off-road vehicle recreation.

**Managed Areas:** Found on lands managed by the BLM Casper, Lander, and Rawlins Field Offices.

**References:**

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