

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PHYSARIA SAXIMONTANA
VAR. *SAXIMONTANA*
ROCKY MOUNTAIN TWINPOD
Family: Brassicaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None (formerly a C2 candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act).
Agency Status: WY BLM Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

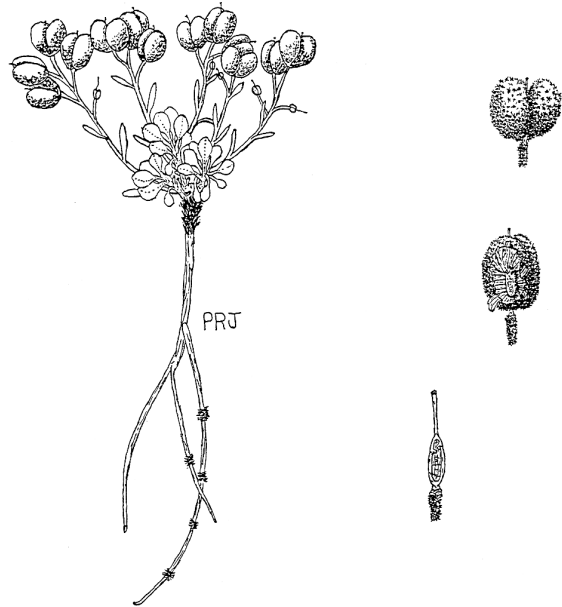
Global: G3T2 State: S2
WYNDD Plant List: State endemic
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Rocky Mountain twinpod is a perennial herb with a basal rosette of mostly entire, spoon-shaped or rounded, hairy, grey-green, long-petioled leaves. Flowering stems are usually prostrate to decumbent with small, linear leaves. Flowers are yellow with 4 petals 8-10 mm long. Mature fruits are gray-hairy, inflated, and deeply notched at the top but not at the base. The membranous partition (replum) dividing each half of the fruit is oval with two stubby stalks (funiculi) on each face (Rollins 1939; Rollins 1984; Fertig 1995; Fertig et al. 1994).

Similar Species: *Physaria didymocarpa* has three or more funiculi on each face of the partition and longer leaves. *P. acutifolia* has a linear replum and fruits that are equally lobed above and below (Fertig et al. 1994).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers May-late June. Mature fruits present late June-August (Fertig et al. 1994).

Distribution: Var. *saximontana* is endemic to Wyoming's southern Bighorn and



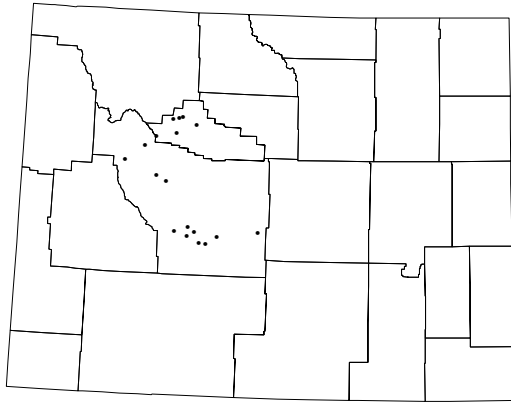
Above: *Physaria saximontana* var. *saximontana* by Robin Jones (from Fertig et al. 1994).

Below: *P. saximontana* var. *saximontana* by Walter Fertig.



Wind River Basins, and foothills of the Wind River and Absaroka Ranges in Fremont, Hot Springs, and Park counties. Recently reported for Carbon County by Roderick et al. (1999).

Habitat: Sparsely vegetated slopes on sandy, gravelly soils, or talus of limestone, red sandstone, or clay at 5200-8300 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *P. saximontana* var. *saximontana*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 18 extant occurrences in Wyoming, 9 of which have been relocated or discovered since 1990. An additional occurrence reported for Shoshone NF by Rosenthal (1998) is based on a misidentified specimen.

Abundance: Populations may be small and sparse to locally abundant, depending on the suitability of habitat.

Trends: Apparently stable.

Protection Status: 2 occurrences are protected within TNC's Red Canyon Preserve and in the Beaver Rim ACEC. Other populations are found on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Habitat could be threatened by road and pipeline construction or ORV activity.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Lander and Worland Field Offices, Wind River Indian Reservation, and Shoshone National Forest.

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