

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

POLYGONATUM BIFLORUM
COMMON SOLOMON'S-SEAL
Family: Liliaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: PERIPHERAL

(Low Conservation Priority)

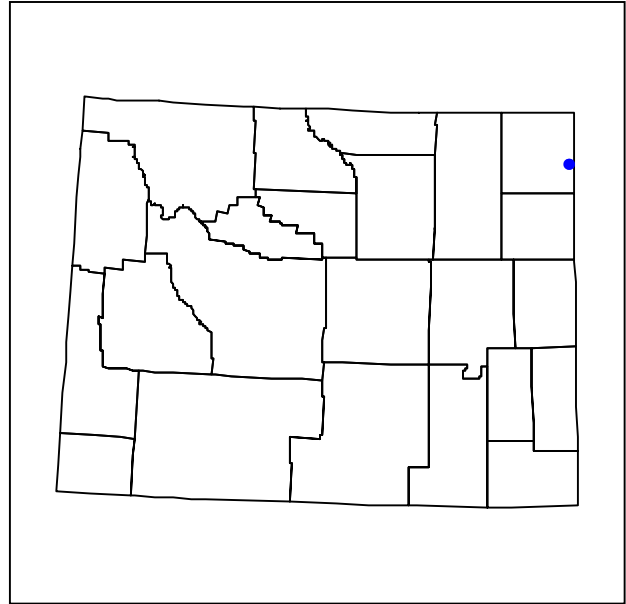
Description: Common Solomon's-seal is a rhizomatous perennial herb with unbranched stems to 12 dm tall. Leaves are simple, alternate, ovate-lanceolate to broadly oval, sessile, prominently veiny, and 7-16 cm long x 3-9 cm wide. Flowers are borne in groups of 1-4 in peduncled, axillary clusters. The 6-lobed perianth is greenish white to cream-colored, 12-17 mm long, and fused for nearly its entire length. Fruits are blue berries (Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Similar Species: *Streptopus amplexifolius* and *Disporum trachycarpum* have branched stems, unfused perianth segments, and orange to reddish fruits. *Maianthemum racemosum* has flowers clustered in a terminal panicle (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-July.

Distribution: Occurs from southern New England to Manitoba and northeast Wyoming, south to Florida and northern Mexico. In Wyoming, this species is restricted to the Black Hills in Crook County.

Habitat: Rangewide, this species is found in moist deciduous woods, thickets, and



Wyoming distribution of *Polygonatum biflorum*.

roadsides (Gleason and Cronquist 1991). Wyoming populations are found in Bur oak-Ironwood or Paper birch/American elm streamside forests and bottomlands at 3800-4000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 occurrences in Wyoming, last surveyed in 1979.

Abundance: Dorn estimated the populations to contain 20-100 individuals in a 1979 element abstract (WYNDD files). The total range is limited to less than 4 acres.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One occurrence is found within the Dugout Gulch Botanical Management Area on Black Hills National Forest. All other populations are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be threatened by over-collection and loss of habitat to recreation and logging.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Black Hills National Forest.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

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

Holmgren, N. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual - Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY.

Larson, G.E. and J.R. Johnson. 1999. Plants of the Black Hills and Bear Lodge Mountains. South Dakota State University College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences & South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Brookings, SD.

Porter, C.L. 1965. A Flora of Wyoming: Part IV. Bulletin 434:1-88. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wyoming.

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