

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

PYRROCOMA CROCEA VAR. *CROCEA*
WESTERN GOLDENWEED
Family: Asteraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4?T4? State: S1

WYNDDB Plant List: Peripheral (Low
conservation priority)

Description: Western goldenweed is a perennial herb with several stems 25-60 cm tall from a thick taproot. Stems are glabrous or only sparsely hairy below, but densely woolly beneath the flower head. Basal leaves are 10-35 cm long and 1-6 cm wide, with oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic glaucous blades that taper gradually to the petiole. The alternate stem leaves are progressively smaller and become sessile and clasping. Flower heads are typically solitary (occasionally 2-3) with involucre 1.5-2 cm long and 2-4 cm wide. Involucre bracts are leaf-like and broadly oblong with obtuse or rounded tips. Ray flowers are bright yellow or orange, 1.5-3.5 cm long, and number 25-70. Disk flowers are 8-11 mm long. Fruits are glabrous achenes 6-8 mm long with numerous brownish unequal bristles (Cronquist 1994; Welsh et al. 1993; Harrington 1954).

Synonyms: *Haplopappus croceus* var. *croceus*.

Similar Species: Other *Pyrrhocomma* species in Wyoming have shorter stems, and more narrow and sharp-tipped involucre bracts.



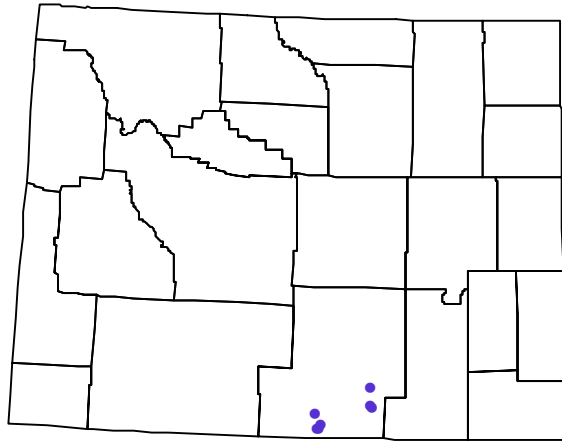
Above: *Pyrrhocomma crocea* from Hall (1928).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers from July-August.

Distribution: Var. *crocea* occurs from southeastern Wyoming to eastern Utah and northern New Mexico. Disjunct populations in Arizona belong to var. *genuflexus* (Cronquist 1994). In Wyoming, this species is known only from the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow Range in Carbon County.

Habitat: Mid-elevation meadows and aspen woods, often on clayey soils (Nelson 1984).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 7 records in Wyoming, two of which are



Wyoming distribution of *Pyrocoma crocea*.

historical (predating 1923). Only 3 records have been located since 1992 (most recently in 1996).

Abundance: Data are available from only one occurrence, which was found to be quite extensive in 1996 (consisting of several thousand individuals).

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: No occurrences are currently found within designated special management areas. One population is found within the potential Cedar Pass Research Natural Area in the Medicine Bow Range (Medicine Bow National Forest).

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Medicine Bow National Forest and the BLM Rawlins Field Office.

References:

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Updated: 99-09-16