

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*SELAGINELLA MUTICA*  
BLUNT-LEAF SPIKE-MOSS  
Family: Selaginellaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G4G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

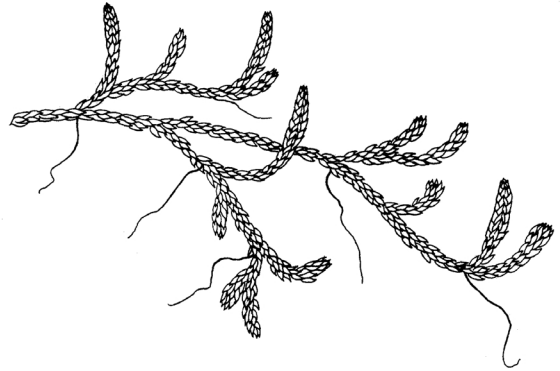
(Low conservation priority)

Description: Blunt-leaf spike-moss is a loosely mat-forming perennial composed of long to short-creeping, pinnately-branching, round stems. The densely crowded and appressed leaves are arranged in a spiral around the stem. Leaves are triangular to lance-ovate, 1-2 mm long, and have ciliate margins, but lack a long, narrow bristle-like tip. Sporangia-bearing strobili are 4-angled, 2-5 mm long, and borne singly at the tips of some branches. Leaves of the strobilus are only slightly larger than vegetative leaves, but are arranged in 4 rows (Cronquist et al. 1972; Lellinger 1985; Flora of North America Committee 1993).

Similar Species: *Selaginella densa* and *S. underwoodii* have conspicuously bristle-tipped leaves.

Distribution: Southern Wyoming to eastern Utah south to Arizona and southwest Texas. In Wyoming, this species occurs in the Laramie and Medicine Bow ranges and Green River Basin in Carbon, Laramie, and Sweetwater counties.

Habitat: Grows in ledges and cracks on cliffs and ledges in montane areas (Lellinger 1985).



Above: *Selaginella mutica* by Jane Dorn (Dorn and Dorn 1972).

In Wyoming, this species can be found on cliffs and boulder outcrops of granite or sandstone with thin patches of soil amid lichens and other cryptogams at 6200-9600 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from three extant records discovered or relocated between 1972-1995.

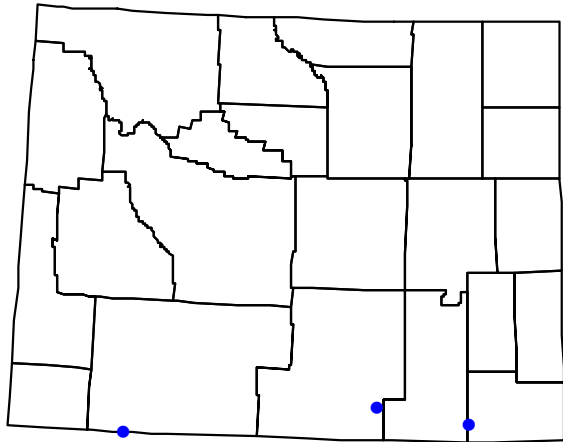
Abundance: No population data are available, but in one location the species was described as "sparse". It may be more abundant, since it is inconspicuous and easily overlooked.

Trends: Not known, but presumed stable.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use and recreation.

Threats: Threats probably low.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the Curt Gowdy State Park, the Ashley National Forest (Flaming Gorge National



Above: Wyoming distribution of *S. mutica*.

Recreation Area), and the Medicine Bow National Forest.

References:

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