

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*SELAGINELLA RUPESTRIS*  
LEDGE SPIKE-MOSS  
Family: Selaginellaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

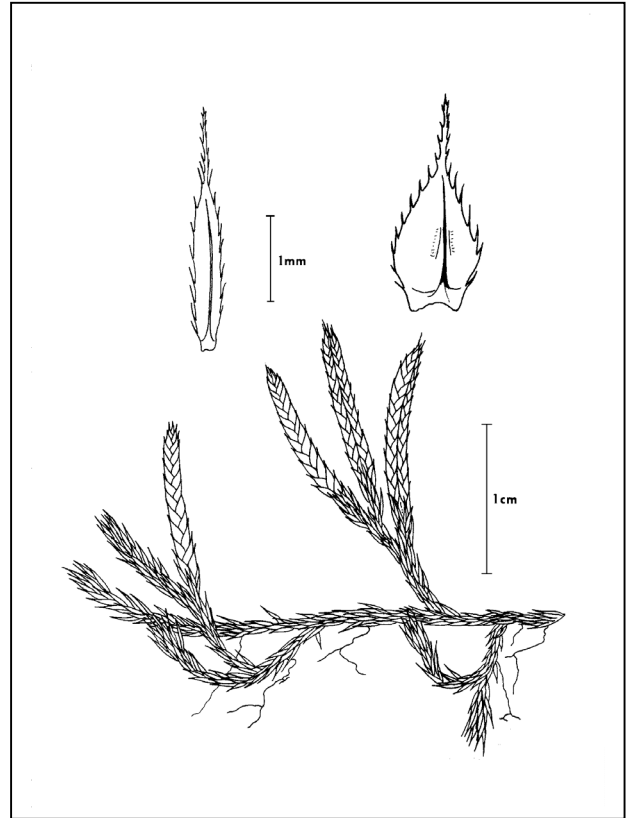
Global: G5 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct  
(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Ledge spike-moss is a perennial fern-ally with creeping, round stems 1-4 cm long that form loose, elongate, spreading mats 1.5-4 cm high. Leaves are linear to lance-shaped, 1.5-2 mm long and less than 0.5 mm wide, tightly appressed to the stem, and have ciliate margins and a terminal bristle. Upper and lower leaves of the stem are the same size. Spore-bearing cones are 4-sided, 5-20 mm long, and have cone sclaes (sporophylls) that are 4 times as wide as the vegetative leaves (Lellinger 1985; Dorn 1992; FNA 1993; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Similar Species: *Selaginella underwoodii* has cone scales only 2 times as wide as the vegetative leaves. *S. densa* has longer leaves on the lower side of the stem than on the upper side (at the same level). *S. mutica* lacks bristle tips on the leaves (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: April-October.

Distribution: Nova Scotia to Alberta, south to Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Georgia, with disjunct populations in the Black Hills of Wyoming (Crook and Weston counties) and South Dakota.



*Selaginella rupestris* by Jane Dorn  
(Dorn & Dorn 1972).

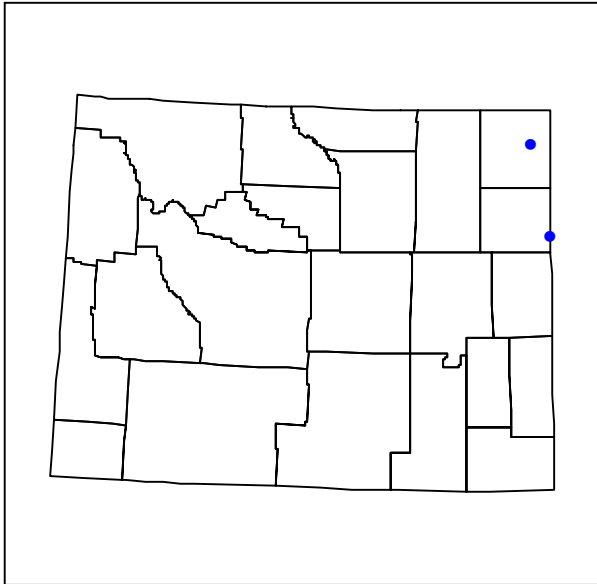
Habitat: Occurs on cliffs and rock outcrops or on rocky, gravelly or sandy soils, often in open areas (Lellinger 1985). Also reported from sea cliffs, limestone, open fire barrens, sandstone and granite rock outcrops, or grassy meadows in FNA (1993).

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 locations in Wyoming, both observed since 1986 (most recently in 1999).

Abundance: Populations very small, each estimated at less than 200 plants in areas of 2-3 acres.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known populations are found on public lands managed for multiple use.



Wyoming distribution of *Selaginella rupestris*.

Threats: May be impacted by recreational activity in one campground population.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Black Hills National Forest.

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