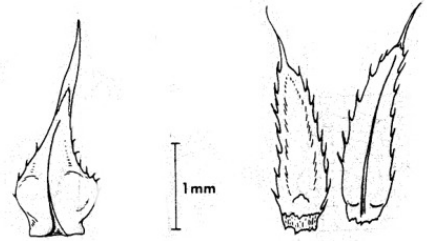


*SELAGINELLA UNDERWOODII*  
UNDERWOOD'S SPIKE-MOSS  
Family: Selaginellaceae



Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5? State: S1

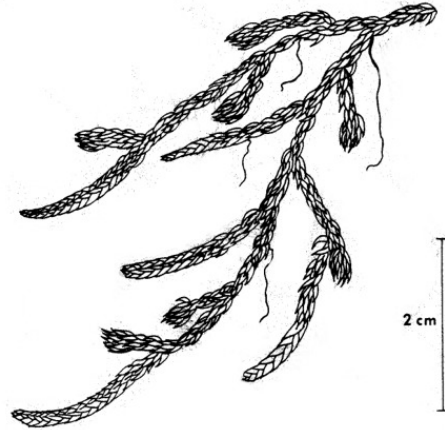
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low conservation priority)

Description: Underwood's spike-moss is a perennial that forms low, loose mats of creeping, rope-like stems with distant branches 1-3 cm long. The ciliate-margined leaves are linear, 0.2-0.4 mm wide, 1.5-2.5 mm long, and have a terminal bristle 0.2-1 mm long. Leaves are equal in length on the upper and lower portions of the stem. Cone-like strobili are 5-20 mm long, terminal on some stems, strongly 4-sided, and have spore-bearing leaves that are about twice as broad as the vegetative stem leaves. (Dorn 1992; Lellinger 1985).

Similar Species: *Selaginella mutica* has leaves without elongate bristle-tips. *S. densa* forms dense mats and has leaves of unequal length on the upper and lower sides of the stem. *S. rupestris* has spore-bearing leaves that are 4x broader than the vegetative leaves (Dorn 1992).

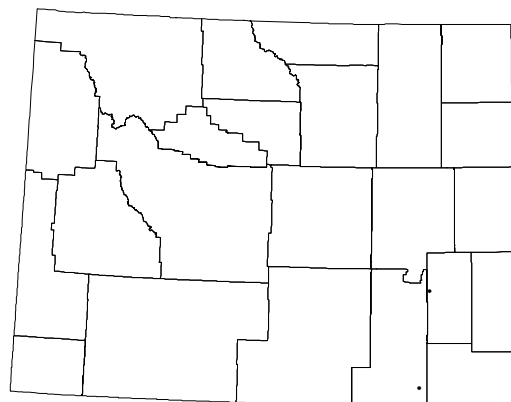
Flowering/Fruiting Period: Reproduces by spores.

Distribution: Southeastern Wyoming and Colorado south to Western Texas, Utah and Arizona (Lellinger 1985). In Wyoming, known only from the Laramie Range in Albany, Laramie, and Platte counties.



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

Habitat: Grows primarily on shady ledges and crevices in igneous rocks (Lellinger 1985). Wyoming populations are usually found on granite cliffs and rock outcrops within Douglas-fir or Ponderosa pine woods at 5900-8600 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Selaginella underwoodii*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 5 extant and 1 historical record (last observed in 1921) in Wyoming. 4 of the extant occurrences have been discovered or relocated since 1991.

Wyoming Natural Diversity Database,  
Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig  
Updated: 99-09-18

Abundance: Census data are lacking, but most populations have been described as "sparse" to "small", often with fewer than 100 plants.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: No occurrences are in special management areas, although one is in the vicinity of Curt Gowdy State Park.

Threats: Not known, but probably low.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Medicine Bow National Forest.

References:

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Lellinger, D.B. 1985. A Field Manual of the Ferns and Fern Allies of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

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