

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*SESUVIUM VERRUCOSUM*  
SEAPURSLANE  
Family: Aizoaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

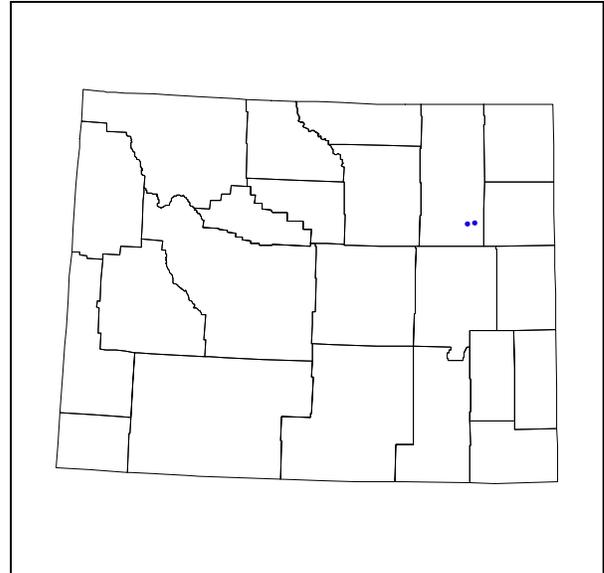
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low conservation priority)

Description: Sea-purslane is prostrate, succulent perennial herb with stems to 9 cm long and fibrous roots. Stems are glabrous but have scattered wart-like projections. Leaves are entire, opposite, oblong to ovate, up to 3 cm long x 1 cm wide, and have clasping, membranous bases. Flowers occur singly and are sessile or on short stalks. The calyx is 5-lobed, reddish-purple on the inner surface, broadly ovate-elliptic, hooded or short-beaked at the tip, and 4.5-7 mm long. Petals are absent. The fruit is a membranous capsule enclosed by the calyx and dehisces at the middle. Seeds are black and 1 mm long (Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Hickman 1993).

Similar Species: *Portulaca oleracea* is an annual with 2 sepals and 5 yellow petals.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-August.

Distribution: Occurs from Missouri and Arkansas west to northeast Wyoming, New Mexico, California, and northern Mexico. Also occurs in South America. Wyoming populations are restricted to the Powder River Basin in Campbell County.



Wyoming distribution of *Sesuvium verrucosum*.

Habitat: Reported from saline and alkaline soils around lakes, creek bottoms, mud flats, and clay dunes (Hickman 1993). Wyoming populations are found on heavy clay soils associated with alkaline flats and playas at 4680-4700 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from two occurrences in Wyoming, both discovered since 1995 (most recently in 1996).

Abundance: Reported as "scattered" at one site in the state.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on state lands managed for multiple use (mostly oil and gas development).

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on state lands within the Thunder Basin National Grassland.

References:

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

Hickman, J.C., ed. 1993. The Jepson manual: higher plants of California. University of California Press, Berkeley.

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