

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

STEPHANOMERIA PAUCIFLORA
PRAIRIE SKELETONPLANT
ASTERACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral

Medium Wyoming Significance

Description: Prairie skeleton plant is a perennial herb arising from a short, woody base, with diffusely branched stems. Leaves are all on the stem, narrow, up to 5 cm long and 1-6 mm wide, and often with shallowly-toothed margins. Flower heads are positioned at the ends of branches, each 10-15 mm long, with 5 or 6 pink ligulate flowers (no disk flowers). The fruit is a 5-ribbed achene, crowned with pappus of tawny or golden bristles that are naked below, plumose above (Cronquist et al. 1994, Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

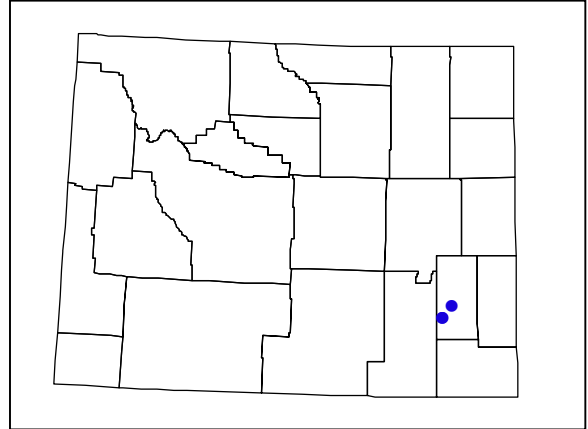
Similar Species: *Stephanomeria tenuifolia* has white pappus that is plumose to the base. *S. runcinata* is a low-growing (< 2 dm) plant which also has white, entirely plumose pappus and leaves that have lobes which point back toward the base of the blade (Dorn 2001, Cronquist et al. 1994).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: August through September.

Distribution: From southern California to Texas and Kansas, north to Colorado, Utah and Wyoming (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming it is known

only from the foothills of the Laramie Range and the Southeast Plains in Platte County.

Habitat: Rangewide, this species is reported from "open dry plains" (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Wyoming populations occur in shortgrass prairie on sandy plains at 4900-5260 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Stephanomeria pauciflora*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 2 occurrences in Wyoming, the most recent being found in 1993.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public or private lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Casper Field Office.

References:

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Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, and L.C. Higgins, (eds). 1993. A Utah Flora, second edition, revised. Brigham Young University Print Services, Provo, UT.

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