**State Species Abstract**
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database -

**TOWNSENDIA MICROCEPHALA**
CEDAR MOUNTAIN EASTERN DAISY
Family: Asteraceae

**Status:**
US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: WY BLM Sensitive

**Heritage Rank:**
Global: G1  
State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Endemic
Very High Wyoming Significance

**Description:** Cedar Mountain Easter-daisy is a rosette-forming, tap-rooted perennial herb. The leaves are mostly oblanceolate, 1-2.5 mm wide, and moderately to densely pubescent with tangled, soft, woolly hairs. Flower heads are mostly sessile with involucres 6-8 mm long and 4-8 mm wide. Involucral bracts are mostly lanceolate, acute-tipped, and pubescent with long hairs. Ray flowers are white and 5-8 mm long. The achenes are glabrous and smooth.

**Similar Species:** Townsendia spathulata and *T. condensata* differ in having larger flower heads (involucres mostly 8-40 mm wide), and hairy, papillate achenes. These species also tend to occur in different habitats and are geographically isolated.

**Flowering/Fruiting Period:** May-July.

**Distribution:** Endemic to southwestern Wyoming; known only from the northern foothills of the Uinta Range in Sweetwater and Uinta counties.

**Habitat:** Exposed, west-facing upper slopes and ridges on shallow, sandy soils at 8200-8500 feet, apparently restricted to Oligocene age Bishop Conglomerate.

**Occurrences in Wyoming:** Known from 3 extant occurrences, all observed or relocated in 1994.

**Abundance:** 330-380 plants were observed during field surveys in 1994. Based on density patterns, the total population is estimated at 2280-4550 plants (Fertig 1995). This is probably a conservative estimate. Populations were all generally small and limited to a total area of ca 32 acres (only 8-10 of which may be occupied).
Trends: Trend data are lacking, although demographic monitoring was initiated in 1994. The species is now known to be more abundant than originally suspected by Dorn (personal comm.) and is believed to be stable at present.

Protection status: All three known populations co-occur with *Thelesperma pubescens*. Habitat of *T. pubescens* on BLM lands has been proposed for ACEC status in the draft Green River Resource Area Resource Management Plan. No populations have been found on potential habitat in Wasatch-Cache NF that harbors *T. pubescens*.

Threats: Potentially threatened by development associated with oil and gas exploration and development. Road construction over rim areas is also a threat due to habitat loss and trampling. May also be threatened by natural succession due to low fire frequencies.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the Rock Springs BLM (Green River RA).

References:


Author: Stuart Markow and Walter Fertig
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