

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

VIBURNUM OPULUS VAR. *AMERICANUM*
HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY
Family: Caprifoliaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: USFS R2 sensitive

Heritage Rank:

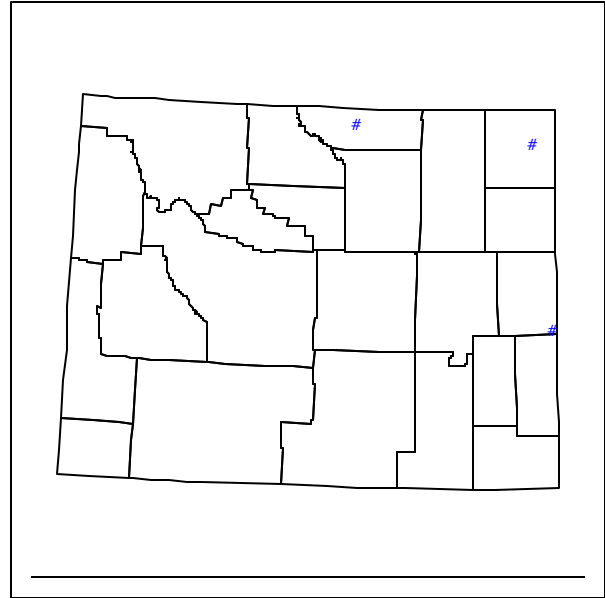
Global: G5T5 State: S1
WYNDDB Plant List: Disjunct
(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Highbush cranberry is a shrub or small tree 1-5 m tall with light gray, smooth branches. Leaf blades are broadly ovate, 3-lobed, palmately veined, and 6-12 cm long x 4-10 cm wide with entire to coarsely dentate margins and sparse pubescence on the veins below. Petioles are 1-3 cm long and have 1 or more stalked, round-topped glands near the summit. The short-stalked inflorescence is a cyme of white flowers of two distinct sizes. The larger, outer flowers have a deeply lobed, slightly irregular, 5-lobed corolla 1.5-2.5 cm across and are sterile, while the inner, fertile flowers are only 3-4 mm across. Fruits are red, 1-seeded drupes 8-12 mm in diameter (Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Hitchcock et al. 1959; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Similar Species: *Viburnum edule* has flowers of a single size, all of which are perfect (with stamens and pistils). *V. lentago* and *V. lantana* have unlobed but finely-toothed leaves.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-July.

Distribution: Var. *americanum* ranges from Newfoundland to British Columbia south to Pennsylvania, Iowa, North Dakota, Idaho, and Washington, with disjunct populations in



Wyoming distribution of *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*.

the Black Hills of Wyoming (Crook County) and South Dakota.

Habitat: Moist wooded hillsides, thickets, or low woodlands.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 extant occurrences in Wyoming (last surveyed in 1989), and one vague, historical record from 1895. This latter report was long suspected to be cultivated, until wild populations were confirmed in 1981.

Abundance: The Dugout Gulch population was reported as "very small" by Hollis Marriott in 1989. Other populations have not been censused.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: One occurrence is found within the Dugout Gulch Botanical Management Area on Black Hills National Forest. Other extant populations are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be vulnerable to disturbances due to low population size.

Managed Areas: Occurs in Black Hills National Forest.

References:

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Holmgren, N. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual - Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY.

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Updated: 00-09-20