

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*VIOLA PEDATIFIDA*  
PRAIRIE VIOLET  
Family: Violaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

Range Context: Widespread/Edge

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

Description: Prairie violet is a stemless perennial herb without rhizomes or stolons. Leaf blades are palmately divided into 3 or more segments, with the main segments further subdivided nearly to the base. Stipules are lance-shaped. Flowering stalks are equal to longer than the leaves and glabrous. Sepals are lance to ovate-lanceolate. Petals are violet to reddish violet, 10-18 mm long, and strongly veined. Cleistogamous (non-opening) flowers are borne on short peduncles among the basal leaves. Fruits are glabrous, yellow-green capsules 8-12 mm long (Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

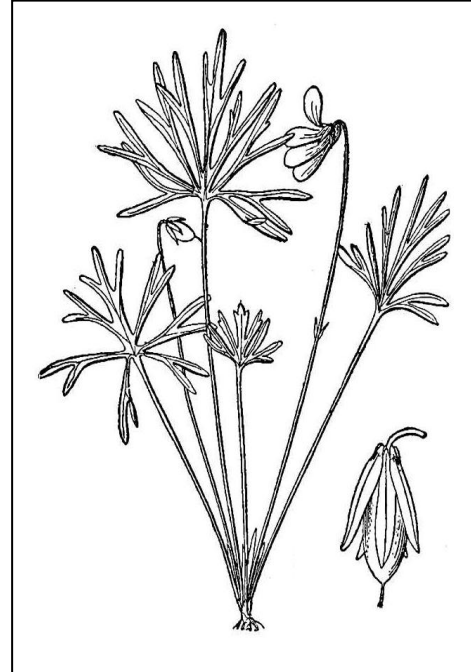
Similar Species: All other Wyoming *Viola* spp. have simple leaves with entire to lobed margins.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: April-June.

Distribution: Occurs from southern Ontario to Alberta and south to Virginia and New Mexico. In Wyoming it is known only from the Black Hills in Crook County.

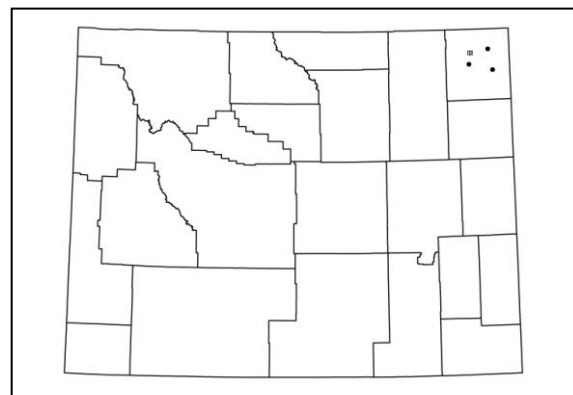
Habitat: Rangewide, this species occurs in plains and open woodlands (Great Plains

Flora Association 1986). Wyoming occurrences are found in grassy hillsides and open ponderosa pine woodland at 4000-4600 feet.



Above: *Viola pedatifida*, from: Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 2: 554.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 extant occurrences (all observed since 1982) and 1 historical record in Wyoming.



Wyoming distribution of *Viola pedatifida*

Abundance: Population size is not known statewide, although one subpopulation

observed at Devils Tower in 1999 contained 2 individuals.

Trends: Could not be relocated in Devils Tower National Monument surveys. XX

Protection status: One occurrence was found in at least two locales in Devils Tower National Monument. Other known populations are on public lands managed for multiple use or private lands.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Devils Tower National Monument and lands managed by Black Hills National Forest and the BLM Newcastle Field Office.

References:

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Marriott, H. 1982. Devils Tower National Monument Plant Checklist. Unpublished list prepared for the Devils Tower Natural History Association, 1980-1982.

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