

***Adenocaulon bicolor*, Pathfinder**

General Botanical Characteristics

Adenocaulon bicolor, commonly known as trail plant or Pathfinder, is a fibrous rooted perennial herb with a single, slender stem up to 1 meter tall. Leaves are primarily basal and long-petioled with large, thin, triangular leaf blades. The leaf surfaces are green and glabrous above and white-wooly beneath. Flower heads are small and contain 6-14 whitish disk flowers.



Seasonal Development

The flowering and fruiting period occurs in June and July.

Distribution/Habitat

Ranges from southern British Columbia to California and east to northern Idaho and northwestern Montana. Disjunct populations occur in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming and in the northern Great Lakes area. Wyoming populations are restricted to Crook County. It is found primarily on shady, north-facing lower slopes and bottoms on moist organic soils.

Interesting Facts

- It is called Pathfinder because the underside of its leaves – which can be overturned when people walk past - are highly noticeable and suggest recent human traffic.

References

Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, November, 2002,
<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/WYNDD/>.

Photo from Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College, November 2002,
<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/>.