

***Astragalus beathii* C.L. Porter**
Beath Milkvetch

Family: Fabaceae

Synonyms: None

NESL Status: G4

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Malodorous robust perennial up to 60 cm high, often nearly prostrate. Leaves deep green, 6 – 12 cm long, with 11 – 21 narrowly elliptic leaflets; stipules 3 – 9 mm long, strongly decurrent half way around the stem or more. Flowers 10 – 27 in dense racemes at anthesis, later loosely spreading, 20 - 25 mm long, bright purple with pale or whitish wing tips. Pods spreading or deflexed, sessile, oblong – ellipsoid, 2.5 – 3.9 cm long. Ovules 29 – 52. Flowering March to May.

Similar species: *A. preussii* var. *preussii* has stipitate pods and fewer ovules.

Habitat: Sandy flats, red clay knolls, and gullied washes in badlands, on selenium-bearing soils derived from Moenkopi sandstone shale at 4000 to 4800ft.

General Distribution: Navajo Nation, Coconino County, AZ.

Navajo Nation Distribution: North of Gray Mountain, west and southwest of Cameron, Coconino Co., AZ.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: Gray Mountain north to Navajo Bridge where Moenkopi shale is present, Coconino County, AZ.

Comments: Previously identified from Marble Canyon and near Wupatki National Monument. Specimens from these sites were determined misidentified. Previous collections between Cameron and Gap have not been relocated during surveys in 2003 & 2004.

Survey Period: Only possible during the flowering /fruiting period from late March to late May, perhaps into June. Suitable habitat can be identified year round.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less depending on size and nature of the project.

References:

- Arizona Rare Plant Committee. 2001. Arizona rare plant field guide: a collaboration of agencies and organizations. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. <http://aznps.org/rareplants.html>
- Barneby, R. C. 1964. Atlas of the North American Astragalus. The New York Botanical Garden. Bronx, New York.
- McDougall, W.B. 1973. Seed Plants of Northern Arizona. The Museum of Northern Arizona. Flagstaff, Arizona.
- Roth, D. 2004. *Astragalus beathii* (Beath's Milk-vetch) Status Report. Unpublished report prepared for the USFWS. Navajo Natural Heritage Program, Window Rock, AZ. http://nnhp.nndfw.org/docs_reps.htm
- Roth, D. 2007. Beath's Milk-vetch (*Astragalus beathii*). Monitoring Report 2005 – 2007. Unpublished report prepared for the Navajo Natural Heritage Program, Window Rock, AZ 86515.



Astragalus beathii

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Astragalus beathii habitat

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