

***Astragalus cremnophylax* Barneby var. *hevronii* Barneby**
Marble Canyon Milkvetch

Family: Fabaceae

Synonyms: None

NESL Status: G3

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Dwarf, evergreen, perennial herb, forming a mat less than 1.5 cm high, 2.5-16 cm in diameter. Short creeping stems 1.2 cm long with 5-9 compound leaflets with dolabriform hairs; leaf bases produced in the fall disjoint readily when dry, leaving the rachis as a stiff, upright spinescent structure; flowers are pale purplish-lilac and usually held slightly above the mat, banners 7-8 mm by 4.4-6 mm, the keel 5.2-5.4 mm. Fruits unilocular, obliquely egg-shaped, and densely hairy. Seeds orange. Flowering April to May, fruiting May to June

Similar Species: two varieties of the taxon are similar: *A. c. cremnophylax* and *A. c. myriorrhaphis*; along with *A. humillimus*, from New Mexico. All of these are considered rare and are geographically isolated from one another.

Habitat: crevices and depressions with shallow soils on Kaibab Limestone on rim-rock benches at the Marble Canyon edge in Great Basin Desertscrub communities, at ca. 5000ft elevation.

General Distribution: Rims of Marble Canyon near Shinumo Wash, Coconino Co.

Known Distribution on the Navajo Nation: East rim Marble Canyon, south of Shinumo Wash, north to Sheep Springs Wash.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: Marble Canyon, from the Little Colorado River Gorge to Navajo Bridge where habitat is suitable.

Survey Period: Best from April to May, but can be identified year-round by an experienced individual. 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>
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- Cronquist, A. et al., eds. 1989. Intermountain Flora, vol. 3 part B. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY. p. 66 -67.
- Kearney, T. H., R. H. Peebles, and collaborators. 1960. Arizona Flora. Second edition with supplement by J. T. Howell, E. McClintock, and collaborators. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1085 pp.
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Astragalus cremnophylax var. hevronii

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Astragalus cremnophylax var. hevronii habitat

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