

***Astragalus naturitensis* Payson**
Naturita Milkvetch

Family: Fabaceae

Synonyms: *Astragalus arietinus* var. *stipularis* M.E. Jones

NESL Status: G3

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Low, subcaulescent perennial; stems 2-6 cm long, leaves up to 6 cm long, with 9 – 15 leaflets that are covered with straight, overlapping hairs; flowers small, less than 1.2 cm long, petals bi-colored, banner white with lilac, wings and keel-tips purple. Flowers during late April and May.

Similar Species: *A. naturitensis* has dorsiventrally compressed pods, while *A. monumentalis* Barneby has pods that are compressed triquetrously

Habitat: Sand filled pockets of sandstone slickrock and rimrock pavement along canyons in the pinion-juniper zone. Known populations occur at 5000 – 7000ft elevation.

General Distribution: McKinley and San Juan Counties, NM, southwestern Colorado and adjacent Utah.

Known Distribution on the Navajo Nation: Hogback, San Juan Co., to the Pinetree Canyon area, McKinley Co., NM.

Potential Distribution on the Navajo Nation: In suitable habitat north of I-40 in McKinley Co., to the Hogback, San Juan Co., NM.

Survey Period: Only from late April through May because mature pods are essential for positive identification. 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 slope, size and nature of the project.

References:

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- New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. New Mexico Rare Plants. Albuquerque, NM. New Mexico Rare Plants Homepage. <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu>
- Peterson J.S. et al. 1981. Status report: *Astragalus naturitensis* Payson. Unpublished report, Colorado Natural Areas Program, Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Inventory. Denver, Colorado.
- Spackman, S., et al. 1997. Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. <http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/rareplants/cover.html>
- USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1995. The Farmington District Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Plant Field Guide. Prepared by Ecosphere Environmental Services, Inc., Farmington, NM.



Astragalus naturitensis

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Astragalus naturitensis habitat

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