

***Platanthera zothecina* (Higgins & Welsh) Kartesz and Ghandi**
Alcove bog-orchid

Family: Orchidaceae

Synonyms: *Habenaria zothecina* Higgins & Welsh

NESL Status: G3

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Perennial herb; plants large, erect, 1.5 – 6 dm tall. Stems leafy below, reduced upwards; leaves glabrous, oblong-elliptic to linear-oblong, 5 – 25 cm long, 0.8 – 6.0 cm wide; inflorescence laxly 5 – 20-flowered, flowers yellowish-green to greenish, spurs 1.5 – 2 times as long as the lip. Flowers from mid July to late August.

Similar Species: Distinct from other species by the spur length which is 1.5–2 times as long as the lip.

Habitat: Seeps, hanging gardens, and moist stream areas from the desert shrub to pinion-juniper & Ponderosa pine/mixed conifer communities. Known populations occur between 4000 and 7200ft elevation.

General Distribution: Emery, Garfield, Grand, Uintah, and San Juan Counties, Utah. Also in Moffat County, Colorado, and Navajo, Coconino, and Apache Counties, Arizona

Known Distribution on the Navajo Nation: Headwaters of Oljeto Wash, Tsegi Canyon Watershed, hanging gardens surrounding Navajo Mountain, Chinle Wash drainages.

Potential Distribution on the Navajo Nation: Northern AZ and San Juan Co., UT

Survey Period: Positive identification is only possible during the flowering period from July to August. Suitable habitat can be identified year round.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more, depending on size and nature of the project. Any activity impacting groundwater will need special consideration

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>
- Atwood, D.N. et al. 1991. Utah Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant Field Guide. U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Utah Natural Heritage Program, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Navajo Nation, and Skull Valley Goshute Tribe.
- Kartesz, J.T. and K.N. Ghandi. 1990. Nomenclatural notes from the North American Flora. III. Phytologia (September 1990) 69(3): 129-137.
- Utah Rare Plant Guide Team. 2003. Utah Rare Plant Guide. Utah Native Plant Society. <http://www.utahrareplants.org/>
- Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, L.C. Higgins. 2003. A Utah Flora: Third Edition. Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.



Platanthera zothecina

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Platanthera zothecina habitat

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