

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ASTRAGALUS LENTIGINOSUS VAR.
SALINUS
SODAVILLE MILKVETCH
Family: FABACEAE

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low Conservation Priority)

Description: Sodaville milkvetch is a short-lived perennial forb with multiple, erect, leafy, glabrate to grayish appressed-hairy stems 10-30 cm tall. Leaves are 4-11 cm long, once-pinnately compound with 11-19 obovate leaflets, and have basally-attached hairs. Stipules are not united. The inflorescence is a raceme 1.5-9 cm long with 10-30 flowers. The pea-like flowers are whitish or cream with a faint blush of purple and have keels 6-9.5 mm long and a calyx 4-6.5 mm long. Fruits are green, bladderly, 2-celled pods 14-35 mm long that taper gradually to the tip and become glabrate, papery-textured, and somewhat translucent at maturity (Barneby 1964, 1989; Dorn 1992).

Identification Comments: Small flower size, inflated, bladderly, 2-celled fruit pods, and sparse pubescence are distinctive.

Similar Species: *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *chartaceus* has larger flowers with keels 10-15 mm long, a calyx 7-12.5 mm long, and firmer-textured fruits. *A. crassicaarpus* has larger flowers and calyces, more dense and

spreading hairs on the leaves and stems, and rounded fruits.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May to early July.

Distribution: Occurs from southern Oregon to northern California and east to southwest Montana, southwest Wyoming, southern Utah, and eastern Nevada. In Wyoming, var. *salinus* is restricted to the Overthrust Belt in Lincoln and Uinta counties.

Habitat: Rangelwide, this taxon is found in sagebrush plains, valleys, and hillsides on sandy or clay-rich soils, or less frequently in greasewood and saltbush flats and playas. Wyoming populations are found in big sagebrush communities on rocky clay slopes and ridges below rimrock at 6540-6800 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 extant populations in Lincoln County (all observed from 1993-1997). Also reported for Uinta County by Barneby (1964), but neither the specimen nor the location have been relocated.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Unknown.

Protection status: One population is protected within Fossil Butte National Monument. Populations on Rock Creek Ridge occur in the vicinity of known *Physaria dornii* occurrences, but are not protected by no-surface occupancy stipulations.

Threats: May be threatened by soil loss and compaction from off-road vehicles or from competition with exotic plants.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Kemmerer Field Office and Fossil Butte National Monument.

References:

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