

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

ASTRAGALUS RACEMOSUS VAR
TRELEASEI
TRELEASE'S RACEMOSE MILKVETCH
Fabaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: WY BLM Sensitive.
USFS R2 sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T2 State: S2
WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(High Conservation Priority)

Description: Trelease's racemose milkvetch is a stout, selenium-scented perennial herb, 2-5.5 dm tall, arising from a woody taproot and root-crown. Leaves are sparsely-hairy, light green, 6-15 cm long and pinnately divided, with 9-16 sharp-pointed ovate-elliptic leaflets. Lower stipules are papery and fused. The 20-60 pale yellow to white pea flowers have a banner 14-16.5 mm long and a purple dot at the tip of the keel. The calyx tube is 5-6 mm long and gibbous behind the pedicel. Flowers droop at anthesis in a densely racemose inflorescence 3-8(10) cm long. Pods are 1-2 cm long, glabrous, sharply 3-angled, 1-celled, with 12-20 ovules per ovary and elevated on a conspicuous stipe (Barneby 1964, 1989; Dorn 2001).

Similar Species: *Astragalus bisulcatus* var. *bisulcatus* and var. *haydenianus* have purple flowers and pods that are 2-grooved rather than 3-angled. Var. *major* has light yellow flowers, but only 4-10 ovules per ovary. *Astragalus canadensis* has rounded leaflets and hairs that attach at points near the middle, rather than at the base (Barneby 1989, Dorn 2001).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Mid-June-July.



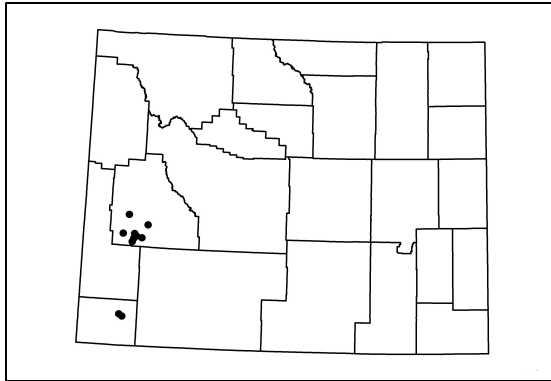
Above: *Astragalus racemosus* var. *treleasei* by B. Heidel

Below: *Astragalus racemosus* var. *treleasei* by B. Heidel



Below: Habitat of *A. r.* var. *treleasei* by B. Heidel





Wyoming distribution of *Astragalus racemosus* var. *treleasei*

Distribution: Regional endemic of northeast Utah (Uinta Basin) and southwest Wyoming in the Green River Basin and eastern foothills of the Wyoming Range in Sublette and Uinta counties.

Habitat: Occurs mainly on outwash flats and fluted Badlands slopes derived from shale at 6500-7500 (8300) ft. The most common species in its sparsely-vegetated habitat include *Elymus lanceolatus*, *Ericameria nauseosa* var. *oreophila*, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*, and *Atriplex confertifolia*.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 9 extant occurrences and 1 historical record.

Abundance: Individual colonies often number less than 100 and typically occupy bands of habitat totaling less than 1 acre, not including the hillsides that contribute to water erosion patterns.

Range: Regional endemic of southwestern Wyoming and northeastern Utah (Uinta Basin) corresponding with Cenozoic lake basins. In Wyoming, known only from the Green River Basin and the eastern foothills of the Wyoming Range (Sublette and Uinta counties).

Trends: Two historic colonies have persisted over 50 years despite road construction,

though it is no longer abundant at the sites. Stable in the absence of major habitat disturbance.

Protection status: All occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be impacted by surface disturbance associated with oil and gas development, road construction, and off-road vehicle use.

Managed Areas: Found on lands managed by the BLM Kemmerer and Pinedale Field Offices.

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