

ASTRAGALUS SHULTZIORUM
SHULTZ'S MILK-VETCH
Family: Fabaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

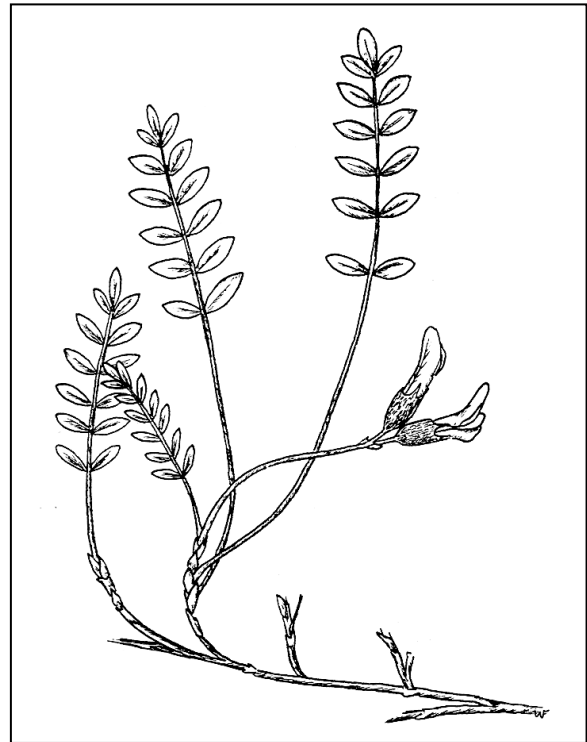
Global: G3Q State: S3

Range Context: Regional endemic/ core

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Very High
(Watch list)

Description: Schultz's milk-vetch is a low perennial herb with slender, elongate subterranean stems arising from a branched rootcrown. Leaves are 1.5-8 cm long and alternate on the 1-2 cm of exposed stem; the petiole length of leaves is reduced toward the top. Leaves have 11-17 green leaflets that are lanceolate to ovate-elliptic, and pubescent on both surfaces or smooth above. The pale, translucent stipules encircle the stem, have 2 teeth, and cover the leaf bases. The cream-colored, lavender-tinged flowers typically are in pairs (1-4) surmounting a 1-4 cm tall flowering stalk. The banner is 11-12 mm long, longer than the wings, sometimes streaked, and the keel has a purple-tip. The calyx is 5.7-6.7 mm long, with slender teeth and short, black hairs. The pod is lance-ovate, 10-12 mm x 3-3.5 mm, with a prolonged narrow beak, sessile, keeled on back, 3-sided in cross-section and becomes papery-thin when ripe (Barneby 1981, Fertig 1992, Lavin and Marriott 1997, Iseley 1998.)

Synonyms: Included in *A. molybdenus* var. *shultziorum* (Scott 1997).



Above: *Astragalus shultziorum* by Walter Fertig

Below: *Astragalus shultziorum* by B. Heidel

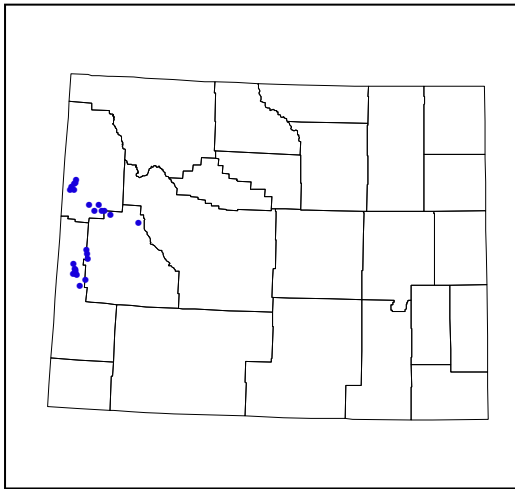


Similar Species: *Astragalus alpinus* has pendulous pods and more than 5 flowers. *A. bodinii* has more than 5 flowers and a thick taproot. *A. leptaleus* has pendulous pods. Both of the latter two species are found in wet habitats below the subalpine zone.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.



Astragalus shultziorum habitat (toe slope) by Hollis Marriott



Wyoming distribution of *Astragalus shultziorum*

Distribution: Centered in Wyoming in the Teton, Salt River and Wind River ranges of Teton, Lincoln and Sublette counties; recently collected for the first time in Idaho.

Habitat: Found primarily in subalpine forb communities on shallow, rocky, calcareous soils, ranging from 8,800-11,500 ft.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 26 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been surveyed or discovered since 1987 (most recently in 2007).

Abundance: Individual populations may be extremely abundant locally or cover large areas of suitable ridge-top alpine habitat.

Trends: Trend data are lacking, but most populations appear to be stable.

Protection status: At least 3 occurrences are protected within the Bridger and Gros Ventre Wilderness Areas (Bridger-Teton NF), and parts of 4 other occurrences are within Grand Teton National Park. All other reports are from public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Sheep grazing may be a potential threat at some sites, but most occurrences are at sufficiently high elevation and in physically protected sites that receive little use or impacts.

Managed Areas: Known occurrences are on lands managed by Bridger-Teton and Targhee NFs and Grand Teton NP.

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