

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDFAB0FB91

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *ambiguous* Barneby

COMMON NAME: Freckled milk-vetch, freckled milkvetch, speckledpod milkvetch

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Fabaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Barneby, *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* 13(2): 945. 1964.

TYPE LOCALITY: Arizona: Peach Springs, Mohave County; 11 May 1941.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: RSA. Ripley and Barneby 3403, 11 May 1941.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Question of whether this taxon is a hybrid. According to Barneby (1964) it is known from specimens probably representing only two populations. The genus *Astragalus* contains 1,500 species occurring throughout the subtropical and temperate parts of world; 350 occur in North America. It is the largest genus of flowering plants in Arizona, with over 100 species within the state (Kearney and Peebles 1951). The variety *ambiguous* is 1 of 34 varieties in the species *A. lentiginosus*.

DESCRIPTION: Coarse herbaceous perennial, with stout, erect, straw-colored stems. The herbage is thinly strigulose or nearly glabrous, the leaflets bicolorous, yellow-green and glabrous above. Stems 3-5 dm (12-20 in), spurred below, and floriferous from near or below the middle. Leaves 7-14 cm (3-5.5 in) long, with 13-21 oblong-obovate or oblanceolate, retuse-emarginate, flat leaflets 7.5-15 mm long. Peduncles are erect, 7-11 cm (3-4 in) long; racemes loosely 15-20-flowered, the axis 5.5-9 cm long (2-3.5 in) in fruit. The calyx is 6.7-8 mm long, thinly white or black-strigulose. Petals purple, drying violet, the auricles of the wings often fleshy-thickened. Pod 1.5-2.2 cm long, inflated but firm. (Barneby 1964).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *ambiguous* is apparently most nearly related to var. *vitreus* and var. *diphysus*, resembling the former in habitat but differing in the leathery pod and separable from the latter by the open racemes, which reach a length of 5-9 cm in fruit (Barneby 1964).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color photo of species (Finzel, *in* Rickett et al., 1970)

Color photos of species (Gary A. Monroe, *in* USDA, NRCS 2002)

Color photos of species (Charles Weber 1998, *in* CalPhotos accessed 2003)

from <http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/>)

Color photo of species (Saint Mary's College of California 1995, in CalPhotos accessed 2003 from <http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/>)

TOTAL RANGE: Arizona endemic from Mohave County, including the Cerbat Mountains, Kingman vicinity, and west of Fredonia, and Yavapai County, 9 mi west of Camp Verde.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: See "Total Range."

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial forb/herb.

PHENOLOGY: April and May.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Open hillsides on limestone or granite.

ELEVATION: 4,000 to 4,800 ft. (1220-1464 m).

EXPOSURE: Open.

SUBSTRATE: Limestone or granite.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Pinyon-juniper.

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None (USDI, FWS 1996)
[Category 2 USDI, FWS 1992]

STATE STATUS: None

OTHER STATUS: None

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BIA – Hualapai Reservation; BLM Kingman Field Office.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 1991-10-20 (ANHP)
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