

***Astragalus heilii* Welsh & Atwood**
Heil's Milkvetch

Family: Fabaceae

Synonyms: None

NESL Status: G4

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Tufted, low, subcaulescent perennial; basifixed pubescent; stems mostly 2-4 cm long, obscured by stipules and leaf bases; stipules 2-3 mm long, merely amplexicaul or the lowermost connate-sheathing; leaves 1-2.5 cm long; leaflets mostly 7-13, elliptic, obtuse, strigulose on both sides. Peduncles slender, 1-7 cm long; racemes with (1)2-4 ascending flowers; calyx 2.3-3 mm long; flowers 4-5mm long, whitish or tinged violet; pods spreading or pendulous, the body ellipsoid, subinflated, 9-9.8 mm long, 4.5-4.6 mm thick, slightly dorsiventrally compressed, thin-walled, red-mottled, unilocular; ovules 8-10. Flowers in mid to late May.

Similar species: *Astragalus knightii* has dolabriform hairs. *Astragalus kerrii* has incipiently dolabriform hairs and differs by having marcescent leaves and peduncles that form a thatch. Also, *A. heilii* is smaller in all parts than *A. kerrii*.

Habitat: Rocky ledges of the Mesa Verde Group in Pinion-juniper communities at 7200ft.

Distribution: McKinley County, New Mexico

Navajo Nation Distribution: Currently only known from the type locality near Borrego Pass.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: McKinley County, NM, on rocky ledges of the Mesa Verde Group in Pinion-juniper communities

Survey Period: Mid May through June.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less depending on size and nature of the project.

References:

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. New Mexico Rare Plants. Albuquerque, NM. New Mexico Rare Plants Homepage. <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu>
Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, L.C. Higgins. 2003. A Utah Flora: Third Edition. Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.



Astragalus heilii

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Astragalus heilii habitat

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