

***Lesquerella navajoensis* O'Kane**  
**Navajo Bladderpod**

**Family:** Brassicaceae

**Synonyms:** None

**NESL Status:** G3

**Federal Status:** None

**Plant Description:** Herbaceous perennial, cushion forming from a thick taproot. Herbage silvery-gray, densely covered with overlapping stellate trichomes; leaves entire, linear-oblongate, tapering to base, 3-8(13) mm long, 0.7 – 1.4 mm wide. Flowers and fruits in dense few-flowered subcorymbose racemes at apex of flowering stems, not or barely exceeding the leaves. Petals 5.2 – 6.5 mm long, spatulate, yellow, faintly orange at the junction of the blade and claw. Fruit sessile to substipitate becoming reddish to copper colored at maturity. Flowering/fruitlet period is from mid to late April to mid June

**Similar species:** *Lesquerella fendleri* has a deep orange "eye", the veins of the petals near the eye are also orange, the petals are much larger, and the stellate trichomes are webbed for at least half the length of the rays. *L. navajoensis* has a faint orange eye and no orange veins, the flowers are much smaller and the trichomes are not webbed. Additionally, *L. navajoensis* flowers and forms fruits earlier than does *L. fendleri*.

**Habitat:** *Lesquerella navajoensis* mostly occurs on windward, windswept mesa rims and nearby habitat with little vegetative cover and high insolation. Also found at the base and slopes of small hills of the Chinle Formation. Typically only found in a combination of Todilto Limestone overlaying Entrada Sandstone or Chinle outcrops in pinion-juniper communities.

**General Distribution:** Apache Co., AZ & McKinley Co., NM.

**Known Distribution on the Navajo Nation:** In New Mexico on mesa rims NW of Thoreau and Continental Divide, and Chuska Mts, at Todilto Park, McKinley Co. In Arizona, from the Red Valley area (N of Navajo, NM) to Wheatfields Lake, Apache Co.

**Potential Navajo Nation Distribution:** Todilto limestone and Chinle outcroppings NE and NW of Thoreau, and the Chuska Mts, McKinley & San Juan counties, NM. Possibly in the Chuska & Carrizo Mts, Apache County, AZ

**Survey Period:** Positive identification is only possible during the flowering period from May to early June. Suitable habitat can be identified year round.

**Avoidance:** A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less, depending on slope, 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>  
O'Kane, S. 1999. *Lesquerella navajoensis* (Brassicaceae), a new species of the *L. Hitchcockii* complex from New Mexico. *o*, Vol. 46, No. 2, pp. Madron 88-91.



*Lesquerella navajoensis*

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*Lesquerella navajoensis* habitat

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