

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Astragalus tdestromii*  
New Add to List 2.2**

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**Background**

*Astragalus tdestromii* is a perennial herb in the Fabaceae. *A. tdestromii* has long been recognized as native to California and is included in Munz's *A Flora of California* (1959), *The Jepson Manual* (1993), *The Jepson Desert Manual* (2003), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). *A. tdestromii* is distinguished from similar *Astragalus* taxa of California's deserts based on floral and fruit characteristics. It flowers between March and July.

*A. tdestromii* grows in open areas on calcareous gravels in desert washes or bajadas within creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) scrub habitat from 600 to 1585 meters in elevation. Barneby (1964) states that, "*A. tdestromii* occurs nowhere except on limestone or on outwash fans built out of calcareous debris."

In California, *A. tdestromii* is known from approximately 12 occurrences in San Bernardino County and 1 occurrence in Inyo County. According to Jim Andre (pers. comm. 2008), *A. tdestromii* is rare in California, and is known primarily from the eastern Clark, Ivanpah, Kingston and Nopah Ranges in the Mojave Desert, and the Cushenbury Canyon area of the eastern San Bernardino Mountains. *A. tdestromii* is more common in Nevada. Jim Morefield (pers. comm. 2008) states that, "based on the Nevada range size (and) the abundance of apparently suitable habitat within that range...(he) would rank *Astragalus tdestromii* S3 in Nevada." Kartesz (1988) states that *A. tdestromii* is "locally common" in Nevada. It is currently ranked as a G4G5 (the rounded status is G4) taxon by NatureServe. More detailed location information for some occurrences is needed to correctly map *A. tdestromii*. No information is currently available about the population size of *A. tdestromii* at any of the known occurrences. Suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of *A. tdestromii* should be searched for additional occurrences.

Some occurrences of *A. tdestromii* are threatened by mining and proposed solar energy development projects (J. Andre, pers. comm. 2008). Land ownership at the occurrences of *A. tdestromii* is not currently known.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Astragalus tdestromii* be added to List 2.2.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G4G5 / S2

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

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**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Astragalus tdestromii* (Rydb.) Clokey

Tidestrom's milk-vetch

Fabaceae

List 2.2

Inyo, San Bernardino; Nevada

North of Tecopa Pass (275A) 3511681, Blackwater Mine (274D) 3511577,  
3511637, Horse Thief Springs (274C) 3511578, Clark Mtn (249D) 3511555,  
Mescal Range (226A) 3511545, Cima Dome (226D) 3511535, Mineral Hill (225B)  
3511544, Big Bear City (131D) 3411637, Valley Wells (226B) 3511546

Mojavean desert scrub / washes, limestone; elevation 600-1585 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms March-July

Known in California from fewer than 15 occurrences. Threatened by mining and solar energy development projects.