

Rare Plant Status Review: *Lathyrus hitchcockianus*
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September 20, 2006

Background

Lathyrus hitchcockianus is a perennial herb in the Fabaceae. This species was previously known in California from a collection made in 1891 from Inyo County and is known in Nevada from approximately 10 occurrences in southern Nye County (just across the California/Nevada border). Upon further research into the locality of the 1891 collection from California, it was discovered that the specimen was actually collected in Nevada and not in California. However, in 2001 Dana York discovered a population of *L. hitchcockianus* in the Grapevine Mountains of Inyo County, California (see *Madrono* 53(1):85-87, 2006). As stated in the *Madrono* article, more than 100 plants were found to occur at the head of Fall Canyon in Death Valley National Park at about 6500 feet elevation. Associates of the species included *Artemisia tridentata*, *Chrysothamnus parryi*, *Ephedra viridis*, *Juniperus osteosperma*, and *Pinus monophylla*. There currently are no known threats to the species in California; however, in Nevada it does seem to be threatened by mineral exploration and development.

L. hitchcockianus is currently known in California from 1 occurrence in Inyo County and approximately 10 occurrences in Nevada. Due to the small number of occurrences, this species requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.3

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G2 / S1.3

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.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

***Lathyrus hitchcockianus* Barneby & Reveal**

Fabaceae

"Hitchcock sweetpea"

List 1B.3

Inyo; Nevada

368A [Wahguyhe Peak/3611781]

Mojavean desert scrub, 1370-1980 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms April-May.

Known in California from only the Grapevine Mountains area. See *El Aliso* 7: 361 (1971) for original description and *Madrono* 53(1):85-87 (2006) for first record in California.