



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
CLARA HUNT'S MILK-VETCH
Astragalus clarianus



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered
Federal Register Notice 62-54791; October 22, 1997
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr3169.pdf
(1.6 MB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:
The plant is listed as threatened by the State of California in January 1990. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

RECOVERY PLAN: None

5-YEAR REVIEW: Completed August 17, 2009. No change recommended.
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/five_year_review/doc2519.pdf



Clara Hunt's Milk-Vetch
Roxanne Bittman
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Clara Hunt's Milk-Vetch
Photographer unknown
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DESCRIPTION:

Clara Hunt's milk-vetch is a low-growing herb belonging to the pea family (Fabaceae). It is sparingly leafy, slender, and covered with short, sharp hairs that are close to the plant. The single or few-branching stems reach 7 to 20 centimeters (3 to 8 inches). Leaves are alternate and 1 to 5 centimeters (1/2 to 2 inches) long.

Small, pea-like flowers appear March through April. Flower petals are white and purple. Seed pods are either hanging or horizontal and are narrow, linear, slightly curved, pointed on both ends, and grow on a slender stalk. See Jepson Manual, below, for a detailed description of the species.

DISTRIBUTION:

The species is found on thin, rocky clay soils derived from volcanic or serpentine substrates in grasslands and openings in woodlands from 75 to 225 meters elevation in Sonoma and Napa Counties. It is currently known from five locations. (See 5-year review above.)

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Rutherford (500B) 3812244, Santa Rosa (501B) 3812246, St. Helena (516C) 3812254, Chiles Valley (516D) 3812253, Mark West Springs (517C) 3812256, Calistoga (517D) 3812255.

THREATS:

Threats include urbanization, degradation due to recreational activities, uprooting by feral pigs, invasive species and potential vineyard development. Two of the historically known populations have been extirpated.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[General references about California plants](#)

www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

[The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California](#). This is the standard reference about California plants. The Manual is available in an [online version](#). See also the [Jepson Online Interchange](#) for updates.

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