

Astragalus funereus – Black woollypod

Family: Fabaceae (legume, pea, bean)

Bloom Period: March-May

Perennial: Stems flat on ground forming loose mat, stems up to 4 inches in length

Leaves: Entire plant covered with dense, stiff, sometimes wavy white-grayish hairs, giving it a woolly appearance

Flowers: Pink-purple, 3-10 per stalk, large, showy

Fruit/seed: Fruit large 1-2 inches, leathery, densely hairy

Uniqueness: Outermost whorl of flowers (calyx) are clothed with prominent black hairs

Location it was first identified (type locality): Southern Nye County, near Rhyolite (west of Beatty), NV (Jones 1907)

Associated Vegetation: Creosote, white bursage, rabbitbrush, saltbush, burrobrush, blackbrush, Pinyon pine, juniper, sagebrush



The plant is named after a population found in the Funeral Mountains in Death Valley, California. It is also commonly known as Funeral Mountain milkvetch.

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Habitat: Rock crevices, volcanic talus slopes, steep volcanic tuff scree, old abandoned dirt roads, steep volcanic gravel slopes

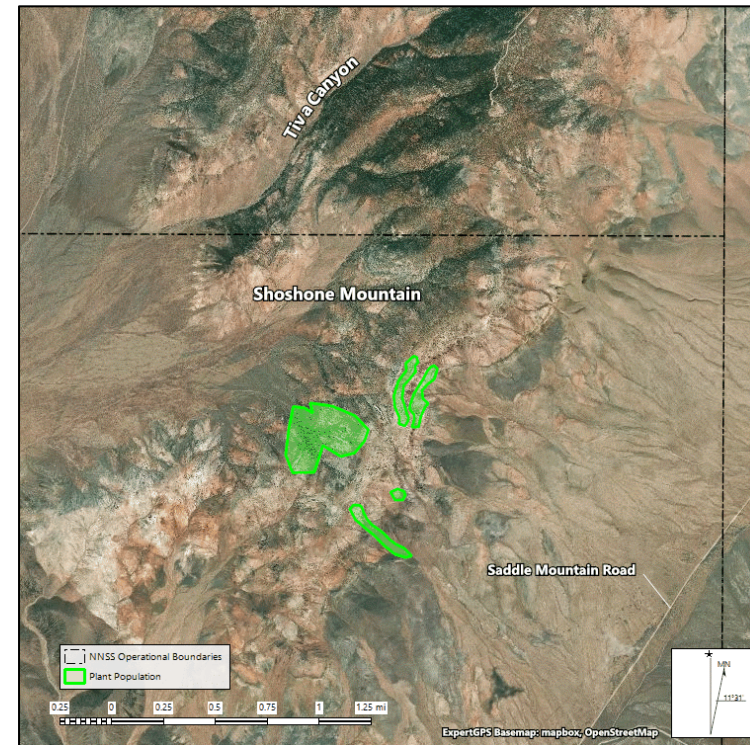
Distribution: NV (Clark, Lincoln [probable], and Nye Counties), CA (Inyo County)

Elevation: 3,675-4,985 feet

Threats on the NNSS: Both populations are in remote, steep areas; currently no known human threats

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Distribution on the NNSS: French Peak (Halfpint Range), Shoshone Mountain; ~105 acres of habitat

Protection Status (NV): No federal or state protections. Listed on the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage At-Risk Plant and Animal Tracking List and the Nevada Native Plant Society Watch List (<https://heritage.nv.gov/documents/ndnh-current-tracking-list>)

Contact 702-295-0393 if your activity might potentially impact this sensitive species

Current Monitoring Goal: Both locations are very remote, have recently been surveyed (2019 & 2022), and no human threats identified; survey subsample of populations once every 5 years