

**NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Astragalus insularis Kellogg var. *harwoodii* Munz (Fabaceae) - San Bernardino County. *Duncan S. Bell & Amanda S. Turek #730 9 April 2010 RSA*. South end of Ward Valley, northwest of the Arica Mountains. Collection taken on south side of Highway 62 at ca. 34.098, -115.005, ca. 770 ft. elev. Only a few plants seen growing in sand dunes. Plants in flower and in fruit. With *Abronia villosa*, *Ambrosia dumosa*, *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *borreganus*, *Baileya pauciradiata*, *Brassica tournefortii*, *Croton californica*, *Cryptantha micrantha*, *Cryptantha pterocarya*, *Dicoria canesens*, *Eriastrum harwoodii*, *Hesperocaulis undulata*, *Larrea tridentata*, *Malacothrix glabrata*, *Mentzelia multiflora* ssp. *longiloba*, *Palafoxia arida*, *Pleuraphis rigida*, *Schismus barbatus*, *Stephanomeria exigua*, *Tiquilia plicata*.

Previous knowledge. *Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii* occurs from northwest Mexico to western Arizona and into California's Sonoran desert and is usually found in gravelly or sandy areas (M. F. Wojciechowski 2011 [in press], *Astragalus*, in B. G. Baldwin et al. [eds.], *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, Univ. of California Press, Berkeley; retrieved from ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepsonmanual/review/ on 22 Aug 2010). Specimen records in the Consortium of California Herbaria (ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium, visited 22 Aug 2010) indicate that it is found in Imperial, Riverside, and San Diego counties becoming increasingly uncommon north of Interstate 10; there are no previous records for San Bernardino County. *Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii* is on CNPS List 2.2, i.e., "rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere" (cnps.site.aplus.net/cgi-bin/inv/inventory.cgi) visited 22 Aug 2010).

Significance. This collection represents the northern and northwestern-most collection of *Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii* and the first collection from San Bernardino County.

Two other larger *A. insularis* var. *harwoodii* occurrences were also vouchered by Bell during spring 2010. Both were farther south, in Riverside County. About forty *A. insularis* var. *harwoodii* were found approximately six miles southeast of the noteworthy collection, on the west side of the Arica Mountains, also in sand dunes (*Bell and Gschwendtner 918, 2 May 2 2010 RSA*, 34.031, -114.939, ca. 1760 ft. elev.). And thirteen plants were found approximately eleven miles southeast of the noteworthy collection in the western section of Rice Valley on the east side of the Arica Mountains, once again in sand dunes (*Bell 649, 1 Apr 2010 RSA*, at 34.025, -114.833, ca. 680 ft. elev.). These new records suggest that other

still-undocumented occurrences may be found in other unexplored and under-collected areas. It is likely that *Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii* could be found further to the north in the sand dunes that surround the Iron Mountains, within the Iron Mountain Solar Energy Zone (USDI Bureau of Land Management and Dept. of Energy, solareis.anl.gov/documents/maps/studyareas/Solar_Study_Area_CA_Pst_7-09.pdf, accessed Aug 2010). If so, these occurrences may be under threat of future solar energy development.

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Bell, Duncan. 2010. "Noteworthy Collection." *Crossosoma* 36(2), 62–63.

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