Astragalus soxmaniorum Lundell
Soxman's Milkvetch

**Identification:** Decumbent, short-lived perennial herb with stems 1-3 dm long, glabrate or strigulose. Leaves once-pinnately compound, 3.5-9 cm long. Leaflets 11-19, obovate or obovate-oblong, 4-15 mm long. Stipules clasping the stem but free. Racemes ascending, usually exserted, with around 8-20 ascending-spreading, then declined flowers. Pedicels in fruit straight and ascending or strongly arched outward, 1.2-2.6 mm long, and persistent. Calyx tube campanulate and up to 9 mm long. Corolla creamy to greenish yellow and 12-18 mm long. Legumes irregularly spreading, commonly lying upon the ground, stipitate 0.5-1.5 mm, subunilocular, deciduous, tardily dehiscent; body semiovoid to broadly lunate-oblancoide, compressed-trigonoid, 1.3-2 cm long, 5-8 mm wide; dorsal face depressed but scarcely sulcate; valves initially fleshy, becoming reticulate-coriaceous, glabrous.

**Key ID characters:**

- Short-lived perennial herb.
- Stems 1-3 dm long.
- Leaves once-pinnately compound with 11-19 leaflets.
- Corolla creamy to greenish yellow, 12-18 mm long.
- Legumes irregularly spreading, commonly lying upon the ground.
**Habitat:** Xeric sandhills, abandoned fields, roadsides.

**Taxonomic Comments:** This is a member of the family Fabaceae (Leguminosae). There are approximately 6 species within the genus *Astragalus* found in LA.

**Status:**

Wetland: No Data
Global: G3 - Vulnerable
State: S2 - Imperiled

**Range:** Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.

**Soils:** Very sandy soils.

**Similar Species:** The six species of *Astragalus* known in LA are: *A. canadensis*, *A. crassicarpus*, *A. distortus*, *A. leptocarpus*, *A. nuttalianus*, and *A. soxmaniorum*. *A. canadensis* can have greenish-white petals, but usually is slightly purple, the leaves are up to 35 cm long, and the hairs are dolabiform. *A. crassicarpus*, *A. distortus*, *A. leptocarpus*, and *A. nuttalianus* all tend to have petals that are purplish, or some similar color variant. However, *A. nuttalianus* is the only species without an overlapping distribution.

**Reason for Rarity:** Habitat loss, and limited natural range.
**Known Distribution in Louisiana:**
Caddo, Natchitoches, Union, Winn

**Dates of Natural Heritage Program Observations:**

**Best Time for Viewing this Species:**

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**References:**


