



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Natural Heritage Program

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*Astragalus soxmaniorum* Lundell  
**Soxman's Milkvetch**

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**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-oblong, 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



Sandy Woods

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

**Soils:** Very sandy soils.

**Similar Species:** The six species of *Astragalus* known in LA are: *A. canadensis*, *A. crassicaarpus*, *A. distortus*, *A. leptocarpus*, *A. nuttallianus*, 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 dolabriform. *A. crassicaarpus*, *A. distortus*, *A. leptocarpus*, and *A. nuttallianus* all tend to have petals that are purplish, or some similar color variant. However, *A. nuttallianus* is the only species without an overlapping distribution.



*A. canadensis*

**Reason for Rarity:** Habitat loss, and limited natural range.

**Known Distribution in Louisiana:**

Caddo, Natchitoches, Union, Winn

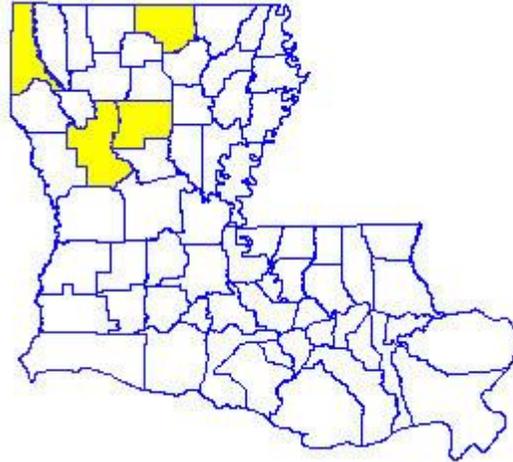
**Dates of Natural Heritage Program**

**Observations:**

1956, 1962, 1967, 1985, 1986(3), 1987(2),  
1995, 1997

**Best Time for Viewing this Species:**

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



Distribution in Louisiana

**References:**

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