



9-30-1974

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Recommended Citation

Schoener, Carol S. (1974) "Notes on three varieties of *Astragalus lentiginosus* (Leguminosae)," *Great Basin Naturalist*: Vol. 34 : No. 3 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn/vol34/iss3/2>

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NOTES ON THREE VARIETIES OF
ASTRAGALUS LENTIGINOSUS (LEGUMINOSAE)

Carol S. Schoener¹

ABSTRACT.— A taxonomic review of the *Astragalus lentiginosus* complex in Utah indicates that the epithet var. *albiflorus*, antecedes and therefore should replace var. *diphysus*. The range of var. *vitreus* has been extended to include Kane and Garfield cos., Utah, and var. *fremontii* has now been identified from the state.

In a taxonomic review of the *Astragalus lentiginosus* complex in Utah, it was found that the name, var. *diphysus*, is anteceded by the name *A. diphysus* var. *albiflorus* Gray. The varietal name *diphysus* is more commonly used due to its previous status as a species. It also appears to be a misnomer to refer to this bright purple flowered plant by the epithet *albiflorus*. Barneby (1964, Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 13:941) discusses this problem. According to the rules of botanical nomenclature (*International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*, Article 11, 1972), the older name in the same rank has precedence. Because the oldest name at varietal rank is *albiflorus*, I propose the new combination, to wit: *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *albiflorus* (Gray) Schoener stat. nov. based on *Astragalus diphysus* var. *albiflorus* Gray in *Memoirs of the American Academy II*, 4 (Pl. Fendl.):34, 1894.

Herbarium specimens of *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *fremontii* were collected in the vicinity of Terry's Ranch, at Beaver Dam Wash in Washington Co., Utah: Barnum 997 (BRY); Higgins 411 (BRY, NY) and 878 (BRY); Welsh 5265 (BRY, NY). This establishes a new state record: previously its distribution had been thought to be limited to the desert areas of southern Nevada and the northern and eastern Mohave Desert in California. The var. *fremontii* is quite distinctive with its small purple flowers (banner 9.4-11.5 [13.8] mm long, keel 6.3-7.9 mm long) and loose racemes which elongate as the flowers mature.

Astragalus lentiginosus var. *vitreus* has now been identified in Utah from Kane and Garfield cos. Kane Co.: Four Mile Bench, Atwood 4064 (BRY); Nipple Springs Road, Atwood and Allen 2820 (BRY); north end of Brigham Plain, Atwood and Allen 02791A (BRY); northeast slope of Smoky Mt., Cronquist 10022 (BRY, NY, RM, UTC). Garfield Co.: Star Spring, Henry Mts., Welsh 3942 (BRY, NY). Previous collection localities were in northern Mohave Co. and northwestern Coconino Co., Arizona, and in Washington Co., Utah. The variety can be characterized by its lax racemes (3.4) 4.0-9.0 (13.4) cm long and its inflated, papery-membranous, glabrous pods which become lustrous with maturity. Pods on two Kane Co. collections (Atwood and Allen, 02791A; Cronquist, 10022) are atypically mottled.

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