

PLANTS

Threatened or endangered plants are not likely to be in areas where we continually spray for weeds. They may be found in less disturbed areas adjacent to the canal.

Caution should be used when working around areas along the canal which have not been disturbed during construction of the canal or since its construction.

Caution should also be used to avoid drift of herbicides when spraying along the canal.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANTS ARE KNOWN TO OCCUR NEAR OR ON LANDS ON THE FRIANT-KERN CANAL.

ALKALI MILK VETCH (*ASTRALAGUS TENER* VAR. *TENER*)

California Native Plant Society List 1B



Description

Alkali milk vetch, also known as slender rattle-weed, is a delicate annual plant in the pea family (Fabaceae). It has one or more stems up to 10 inches (26 cm) long. The leaves are divided into 7 to 15 leaflets (separate segments) that vary in shape, even on the same plant,

from narrow and pointed to wedge-shaped with blunt or notched tips. Alkali milk vetch has a cluster of small, pinkish, pea-like flowers that appear between March and June. The pods are less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) long and are bent downwards. The plants become inconspicuous within a few weeks of flowering.

Habitat

Alkali milk vetch grows in alkaline, clay soils in vernal pools, at the edges of salt marshes, and in moist grassy flats.

Range/distribution

Within the San Joaquin Valley, it is currently found in Alameda and Merced Counties but was also known historically from Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and San Benito counties.

Photo: © Carol Witham, California Native Plant Society from Calphotos: seq_num=112503

References

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