

Fernald's milk-vetch

(*Astragalus robbinsii* var. *fernaldii*)

- Fernald's milk-vetch is a perennial plant that is a member of the bean and pea plant family.
- It grows in small clumps and is intolerant of shade.
- The leaves are alternate and composed of 9 to 17 hairy leaflets and the flowering stalks bear 10-20 small purple to lilac flowers.
- The genus *Astragalus* is large and complex and therefore this subspecies is currently undergoing a genetic review that may change its status.



Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

Fernald's milk-vetch grows in exposed limestone outcrops dominated by arctic/alpine plants. The bulk of the Fernald's milk-vetch distribution is in the Blanc Sablon, Québec area; however, a population is known from Labrador, directly adjacent to the Québec-Labrador border. Milk-vetch from a disjunct population on the Highlands of St. John on the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland has likely been misidentified as Fernald's milk-vetch.

Population Trends

The total number of individuals within the Province is estimated to be from several hundred to several thousand. Population trends are unknown.

Limiting Factors and Threats

The Québec-Labrador border population is considered to be under threat from illegal limestone rock quarrying. The potential population on the Highlands of St. John is not be considered to be under threat because of its remote location.

Special Significance

Fernald's milk-vetch is endemic to the Strait of Belle Isle area in the northeastern Gulf of St. Lawrence.

You can help protect Fernald's milk-vetch:

- Support stewardship activities in your area.
- Learn something new about a species at risk and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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