

ASH MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE:
INTRODUCTION FOR A RELATED
BIBLIOGRAPHY, WEBSITE LINKS, AND SYNONYMY

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Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, in Nye County, Nevada, is one of the few remaining desert oases in the southwestern United States. A combination of spring-fed wetlands and alkaline desert uplands, the refuge is home to at least 24 plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

The information assembled here is updated from a project that reviewed the conservation status of ten of the rare plant taxa found in the refuge. Among these, one is federally listed as endangered (E) and six are currently classified as threatened (T).

1. *Astragalus phoenix* (Fabaceae), Ash Meadows milkvetch (T)
2. *Calochortus striatus* (Liliaceae), alkali mariposa lily
3. *Centaurium namophilum* (Gentianaceae), spring-loving centaury (T)
4. *Cordylanthus tecopensis* (Orobanchaceae), Tecopa bird's-beak
5. *Enceliopsis nudicaulis* var. *corrugata* (Asteraceae), Ash Meadows sunray (T)
6. *Grindelia fraxinipratensis* (Asteraceae), Ash Meadows gumplant (T)
7. *Ivesia kingii* var. *eremica* (Rosaceae), Ash Meadows ivesia (T)
8. *Mentzelia leucophylla* (Loasaceae), Ash Meadows blazing-star (T)
9. *Nitrophila mohavensis* (Chenopodiaceae), Amargosa niterwort (E)
10. *Spiranthes infernalis* (Orchidaceae), Ash Meadows lady's-tresses

The original purpose was to gather a list of the published and unpublished ("grey") literature for each of the selected species, using both traditional and electronic bibliographic search methods. This basic data set included the taxonomic history, life history, ecology, and land management status for each species, as well as sources of photographs and other illustrations. Various published lists and online databases were consulted to locate voucher specimens, herbarium collections, and other data on known occurrences for these taxa, along with their associated habitat characteristics and general management status. Lastly, because the nomenclature for these plants has changed over time, a synonymy entry was created for each taxon, which also noted the herbarium or herbaria in which type specimens are housed.

The collected data from that project have been checked for validity as of late July 2009 and organized into (a) a bibliography, with a comment in square brackets at the end of each entry indicating which of the ten species of interest are included in that reference, (b) a separate list of website links, which should allow users access to databases and search engines that were particularly useful, and (c) synonymy for each taxon.

However, no compilation is static. These ten rare plants may be included in new research papers and books published in the future, and websites are often revised and updated. Scientific names, too, can vary, depending on which taxonomic interpretation is being followed. The hope is that this collection will be a helpful starting point and guide for those who are interested in the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and some of the flora found in this unique habitat.

ASH MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK J. SMITH



Ash Meadows, named for the trees in the background: a representative general scene.



an Ash Meadows spring



Astragalus phoenix
(Fabaceae)
Ash Meadows milkvetch

Calochortus striatus
(Liliaceae)
alkali mariposa lily





Centaurium namophilum
(Gentianaceae)
spring-loving centaury



Cordylanthus tecopensis
(Orobanchaceae)
Tecopa bird's-beak



Enceliopsis nudicaulis
var. *corrugata*
(Asteraceae)
Ash Meadows sunray



Grindelia fraxinipratensis
(Asteraceae)
Ash Meadows gumplant



Ivesia kingii
var. *eremica*
[normal form]
(Rosaceae)
Ash Meadows ivesia



Ivesia kingii
var. *eremica*
[atypical mat form]
(Rosaceae)
Ash Meadows ivesia



Mentzelia leucophylla
(Loasaceae)
Ash Meadows blazing-star



Nitrophila mohavensis
(Chenopodiaceae)
Amargosa niterwort

Spiranthes infernalis
(Orchidaceae)
Ash Meadows lady's-tresses

