

Arabis falcifruca Rollins (1982)**ELKO ROCKCRESS****FAMILY:** *Brassicaceae*, the mustard family.**SYNONYMS:** *Arabis cobrensis* (misapplied)**STATUS:****Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G1G2 S1S2****USFWS/ESA:** species of concern. **STATE OF NEVADA:** none. **BLM:** Special Status Species. **USFS:** none.**NNNPS:** watch list.**POPULATION CENSUS:** **8 occurrences mapped** at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, OR **9 occurrences mapped** at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated **individuals 539+**, total estimated **area 13.8+ ha (34.1+ ac)**. **TREND:** unknown.**IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS:** Threatened by trampling of soil crust by grazing animals, fires and consequent cheatgrass replacement, fire suppression activities, and road construction and maintenance.**INVENTORY EFFORT:** Systematic surveys have been conducted, but much potential habitat remains to be examined.Most recent entered survey 1992, average year of last survey 1990. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **6-10 yrs:** 88.9%; **21-30 yrs:** 11.1%.**LAND MANAGEMENT** in decreasing predominance: U. S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada state lands (?).**RANGE:** Elko and Lander counties, Nevada. **Nevada endemic.** Maximum **range dimension 46.6 km (28.9 mi)** excluding most disjunct record. **Type specimen** collected in Elko County.**ELEVATIONS RECORDED:** 5300-6100 feet (1615-1859 meters).**HABITAT:** Dry, densely vegetated, relatively undisturbed, light-colored silty soils with a high cover of moss and other soil crust components on moderate to steep north-facing slopes in the sagebrush zone, dominated by moss, *Artemisia tridentata* var. *wyomingensis*, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* var. *puberulus*, and *Poa secunda* var. *secunda*. Also reported but not confirmed from rock crevices.**PHENOLOGY:** flowering early-spring. Range of most frequent **survey months:** June-July.**LIFE-FORM AND HABIT:** perennial herb.**DESCRIPTION:** A perennial herb, 2-4.5 dm tall, with densely hairy lower leaves and pale purple flowers, fruiting in May and June.**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Morefield (1997); Nevada Natural Heritage Program slide collection (1986-present).**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Morefield (1997).**OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES** (listed separately): Rollins (1993).**SPECIFIC REFERENCES:**Lesica, P. and J. Shelly. 1992. Effects of cryptogamic soil crust on the population dynamics of *Arabis fecunda* (*Brassicaceae*). *American Midland Naturalist* 128: 53-60.Morefield, J. D. 1997. Current knowledge and conservation status of *Arabis falcifruca* Rollins (*Brassicaceae*), the Elko rockcress. Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program, status report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, Reno.Rollins, R. C. 1982. Studies on *Arabis* (*Cruciferae*) of western North America II. Contributions from the Gray Herbarium 212: 103-114.**OF FURTHER INTEREST:** Moss cover may be important for survival of older plants (Lesica and Shelly 1992), and has been substantially impacted by livestock trampling. Closely related to another rare Nevada species, *Arabis bodiensis* Rollins.