

Arabis ophira Rollins (1981)**OPHIR ROCKCRESS**

FAMILY: *Brassicaceae*, the mustard family.

STATUS: **Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G1G2 S1S2**

USFWS/ESA: species of concern. **STATE OF NEVADA:** none. **BLM:** Special Status Species. **USFS:** Humboldt-Toiyabe NF Sensitive Species. **NNNPS:** watch list.

POPULATION CENSUS: **5 occurrences mapped** at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, OR **13 occurrences mapped** at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated **individuals 188**, total estimated **area 2.8+ ha (6.9+ ac)**. **TREND:** unknown.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS: Mineral exploration and development, trampling from recreational trail use, small population numbers and areas, one site vulnerable to off-road vehicle use.

INVENTORY EFFORT: Surveys extensive but incomplete. Most recent entered survey 1997, average year of last survey 1997. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **0-5 yrs:** 84.6%; **6-10 yrs:** 15.4%.

LAND MANAGEMENT in decreasing predominance: Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, designated wilderness.

RANGE: Lander and Nye counties, Nevada. Endemic to the Toiyabe Range. Maximum **range dimension 29.3 km (18.2 mi)** excluding most disjunct record. **Type specimen** collected in Nye County.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED: 9960-10520 feet (3036-3206 meters).

HABITAT: Loamy soil pockets in dry, exposed quartzitic scree, colluvium, and outcrops on south- to west-facing ridge lines and upper slopes, often in seasonal solifluction areas. Widely scattered in, and often under canopy of, sparse associations of *Artemisia arbuscula*, *Leptodactylon pungens*, and grasses in the mountain sagebrush and subalpine conifer zones.

PHENOLOGY: flowering late-spring to summer. Range of most frequent **survey months:** June-July.

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: small perennial herb.

DESCRIPTION: A perennial herb, 4-10 cm tall, with purple flowers in bloom June-July.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Weixelman and Atwood (1990); Nevada Natural Heritage Program slide collection (1986-present) and files.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Weixelman and Atwood (1990).

OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES (listed separately): Rollins (1993), Spahr et al. (1991).

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

Morefield, J. D. 1992. Interim status report for *Arabis ophira* Rollins. Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program, prepared for the Toiyabe National Forest, Sparks, Nevada.

Rollins, R. C. 1981. Studies on *Arabis* (Cruciferae) of western North America. *Systematic Botany* 6: 55-64.
