

***Arctomecon californica*** Torrey & Fremont**LAS VEGAS BEARPOPPY**

**FAMILY:** *Papaveraceae*, the poppy family.

**STATUS:** **Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G3 S3**

**USFWS/ESA:** species of concern. **STATE OF NEVADA:** FULLY PROTECTED. **BLM:** Special Status Species in Nevada. **USFS:** none. **NNNPS:** THREATENED.

**POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA):** **63 extant occurrences mapped** at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, **OR 92 extant and 22 extirpated occurrences mapped** at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated **individuals 445,000+**, total estimated **area 8342+ ha (20,614+ ac)**. **TREND:** DECLINING RAPIDLY.

**IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA):** Habitat clearing for urban and residential development, highway construction and maintenance, flood control, gypsum mining, etc., off-road vehicle use, dumping, pollinator declines due to habitat fragmentation. Impoundment of Lake Mead inundated a large area of habitat, but the remaining populations there are large and relatively well-protected.

**INVENTORY EFFORT (NEVADA):** Surveys are substantially complete. Most recent entered survey 2000, average year of last survey 1992. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **0-5 yrs:** 35.9%; **6-10 yrs:** 55.6%; **11-20 yrs:** 2.6%; **21-30 yrs:** .9%; **31-50 yrs:** 1.7%; **51+ yrs or unknown:** 3.4%.

**LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA)** in decreasing predominance: U. S. Bureau of Land Management, private lands, National Park Service, Nevada state lands, U. S. Department of Defense, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (?).

**RANGE:** Clark County, Nevada; also in AZ and UT (introduced). Maximum Nevada **range dimension 97.7 km (60.7 mi)** excluding most disjunct record.

**ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA):** 1060-3642 feet (323-1110 meters).

**HABITAT (NEVADA):** Open, dry, spongy or powdery, often dissected ("badland") or hummocked soils with high gypsum content, often with well-developed soil crust, in areas of generally low relief on all aspects and slopes, with a sparse cover of other gypsum-tolerant species surrounded by *Larrea tridentata*, *Atriplex*, and *Coleogyne ramosissima* associations. On appropriate soil types, will often revegetate disturbances that have been allowed to recover if a soil seedbank remains.

**PHENOLOGY:** flowering spring. Range of most frequent **survey months:** February-July.

**LIFE-FORM AND HABIT:** evergreen perennial cushion.

**DESCRIPTION:** A short-lived perennial herb with showy yellow flowers in bloom April-May. Flower stalks are 2-4 dm tall.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Mistretta et al. (1996); Nevada Natural Heritage Program images web page (1998-present), slide collection (1986-present), and files.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Flora of North America editorial Committee (1997), Mozingo and Williams (1980).

**OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES** (listed separately): Holland et al. (1979), Holland et al. (1980), Niles et al. (1997), Niles et al. (1996).

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