

Ionactis caelestis Leary & Nesom (1992)

RED ROCK CANYON ASTER

FAMILY: *Asteraceae*, the sunflower family.

STATUS: **Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G1 S1**

USFWS/ESA: none. **STATE OF NEVADA:** none. **BLM:** Special Status Species. **USFS:** none. **NNNPS:** watch list.

POPULATION CENSUS: **1 occurrence mapped;** total estimated **individuals 1000**, total estimated **area 4.0 ha (9.9 ac).**

TREND: unknown.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS: Species does not appear to be danger of extinction (Nesom and Leary 1992).
(Population is within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.).

INVENTORY EFFORT: A substantial amount of potential habitat has already been examined, but more remains to be surveyed. Most recent entered survey 1991. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **6-10 yrs:** 100%.

LAND MANAGEMENT: U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

RANGE: Clark County, Nevada. Endemic to the type locality in the Sandstone Bluffs - Red Rock Canyon area of the Spring Mountains. **Type specimen** collected in Clark County.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED: 6808 feet (2075 meters).

HABITAT: Crevices in exposed, sparsely vegetated outcrops of Aztec sandstone in the Pinyon-Juniper and lower montane conifer zones, with *Fendlerella utahensis*, *Poa secunda*, *Amelanchier utahensis*, *Hymenopappus filifolius*, *Arctostaphylos pungens*, *Arenaria congesta* var. *charlestonensis*, *Glossopetalon pungens*, *Pinus ponderosa*, *P. monophylla*, etc.

PHENOLOGY: flowering summer. Range of most frequent **survey months:** June-August.

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: long-lived perennial herb.

DESCRIPTION: A perennial herb with numerous green stems, 1.2-2.5 dm tall, from thick caudex branches. Leaves are small, stiff, and sharply ascending. Herbage is dotted with prominent yellow-orange resin droplets. The small (5-7 mm wide) flower heads, borne at the apices of the stems, have a few blue to blue-violet, fertile ray flowers and yellowish, sterile disk flowers. Known to bloom in June.

PHOTOGRAPHS: none known.

ILLUSTRATIONS: none known.

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

Nesom, G. L. and P. J. Leary. 1992. A new species of *Ionactis* (Asteraceae: Astereae) from southern Nevada and an overview of the genus. *Brittonia* 44: 247-252.
