

## Barneby's locoweed *Oxytropis arctica* R. Br. var. *barnebyana*

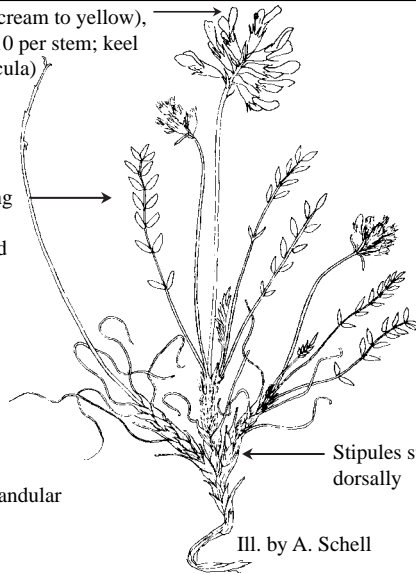
Welsh

Flowers white (drying cream to yellow),  
18-22 mm long, (3) 5-10 per stem; keel  
with a purple spot (macula)

Leaves 5-15 cm long  
with 9-15 pinnate  
leaflets, not whorled

Entire plant is non-glandular

Stipules straw colored, pilose  
dorsally



Ill. by A. Schell

Perennial herb to 8-30 cm tall, erect, from a branched caudex, often forming large clumps

### Fabaceae

**Distribution:** Endemic to northwestern Alaska, near Kotzebue.

**Habitat:** Dry to mesic dryas-herb tundra and herbaceous shrub tundra on gravels of beach ridges, river terraces, and streambeds from sea level to at least 2,000 ft. elevation. Also found on rock outcrops and in open woodland and willow scrub in the subalpine. This species also colonizes roadside gravels at Kotzebue.

**Similar Species:** Most closely related to *O. koyukukensis* A. E. Porsild, which differs in having blue rather than white to cream colored flowers. *O. maydelliana* Trautv. has shiny chestnut-brown old leaf bases and distinctly yellow (not cream) colored flowers. *O. jordalii* A. E. Porsild is a smaller plant (often less than 15 cm tall) with smaller, white to cream colored flowers sometimes tinged blue, often in an elongate inflorescence, and with shorter leaves bearing fewer leaflets. *O. campestris varians* (Rydb.) Schum. (= *O. campestris* ssp. *gracilis* sensu Hultén) has yellow flowers in a more or less elongate inflorescence, rarely forming a compact ball-like inflorescence.

**Notes:** Flowering late June - July. More work is needed to clarify the relationship of this taxon to low growing, white flowered oxytropes from the Kuparuk River area. Yurtsev treats var. *barnebyana* as a subspecies of the Eurasian *O. sordida*.

**References:** Lipkin 1985b; Moran and Meyers 1996; Murray and Lipkin 1987, 1974, 1991; Tolmatchev and Yurtsev 1960-1987; Welsh 1968, 1991.



*Closeup of Oxytropis arctica*  
*photo by R. Lipkin*

