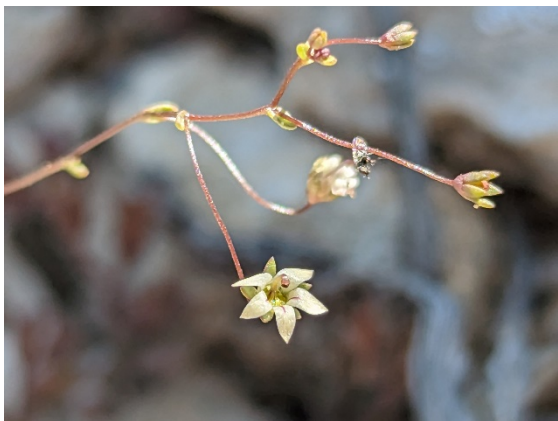


2023 was a spectacular season in the Silver Peak Range, a geologically colorful mountain range adjacent to the White Mountains in Esmeralda County, Nevada. The area saw record-breaking precipitation this past year and created prime conditions for floristic documentation. In 2023, over 150 new taxa were added to the checklist for the Silver Peak Range, including two Nevada state records and over 25 county records. Exciting finds included *Tonestus graniticus* (Granite serpentweed, G1,S1), a single-site endemic no longer known for a single site, a rare and threatened astragalus, *Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *sesquimetralis* (Sodaville milkvetch, 1B.1), a rare and hard-to-spot cactus, *Sclerocactus nyensis* (Nye county fishhook cactus, G1,S1), the sand-dune loving *Oryctes nevadensis* (Nevada oryctes 2B.1, G3) and a previously California endemic, *Nemacladus inyoensis* (Badger Flat thread plant, 1B.2). In addition to more extensive botanical documentation in this area, this field season additionally allowed for six interns to apprentice for two weeks as field botanists with me. During this time, skills pertaining to botanical collecting, field ID, backcountry camping, and team building were developed, followed by a week-long rotation in various departments at the California Botanic Garden. Inspiring the next generation of botanists is an incredibly important element of plant conservation, and without the support and funding of organizations such as the CNPS Bristlecone chapter, this work would not have been possible. The Silver Peak Range is an unique and diverse place at the intersections of the Mojave and Great Basin deserts. It's home to rare and endemic plants and animals that face extreme existential pressure from looming industrial mining and other green energy development. This unique intact ecosystem will be lost if unfettered industry is allowed to develop the sensitive habitats of the region. This floristic inventory of the Silver Peak Range will help conservationists and botanists work to protect the unique flora of this area. A third, brief field season is planned for 2024 - if you would like to come on any collecting trips, please feel free to reach out!



*Nemacladus inyoensis*



*Oryctes nevadensis*



*Phacelia Saxicola*



*Sclerocactus nyensis*



*Tonestus graniticus*



*Erythranthe utahensis*



Stanleya elata



Purshia stansburyana, Icehouse Canyon



Icehouse Canyon, Silver Peak Range



Interns around Lupinus uncialis



Red Mtn from Silver Peak



Fish Lake salt marsh



Sunset in the Joshua trees