

#### 11.4 **Rare plants on oil shale substrates**

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Many plant species are found in areas that contain oil shale deposits and nowhere else in the world. We will present photos of these narrowly distributed species, as well as other species-specific information such as global distribution, conservation status, pollination ecology, and habitat parameters. Our understanding regarding the significance of these species is the result of decades of coordination with an international network of botanists, as well as day-to-day, on-the-ground coordination with numerous local partners including federal and state agencies, universities, private consultants, non-governmental organizations, and local industries. Nonetheless, our understanding about the biology and ecology of these species is not complete. We will summarize current research efforts designed to fill some of the data gaps, and propose an approach to future research endeavors. The long-term conservation of these species is only possible with the awareness of where the species occur, and what they need to survive.