Clematis Morefieldii

The *Clematis Morefieldii*, more commonly known as Morefield’s Leather Flower or Huntsville Vasevine, is an endangered plant. One of the *C. Morefieldii*’s most noticeable traits is the green and pink bell shaped flower that grows at the end of the vine. The vine can grow up to 16 feet in length. They have leaflets like tendrils for grasping onto surfaces and objects around the plant. The entirety of the plant is covered by a cobweb-like layer of tomentose (a white, hair like substance found on some plants).

Discovered in 1980 in Huntsville, Alabama, the plant is known to only grow in parts of northern Alabama, and southern Tennessee. The plant can be found around woodland areas. The vine likes to grow up limestone rock and in highly rocky areas.

Since its discovery, the population of Morefield’s Leather Flower has substantially been decreased due to industrial and residential development. Research also leads to believe that the plant has strict reproductive requirements (Kral). Another theory suggests that Mealy bug infestations may be inhibiting the
plants growth cycle (TDEC). The plants population may already be too low for it to make a full recovery, and resist extinction.

Some botanists and activists suggest deer enclosures and intentional seed dispersal in order to conserve the plants lifeline. The plant is listed as an endangered species, and protected by multiple organizations. Some woods where the Huntsville Vasevine is found are also under protection by groups such as the Environmental Conservation Online System.


"Species Profile for Morefield's Leather Flower (Clematis Morefieldii)." Species Profile for Morefield's Leather Flower (Clematis Morefieldii). N.p., n.d. Web. ECOS.gov