

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDNYC06090  
**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Boerhavia megaptera* Standl.  
**COMMON NAME:** Tucson Mountain Spiderling; Winged Spiderling  
**SYNONYMS:** *Boerhaavia megaptera*  
**FAMILY:** Nyctaginaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Standley, Paul C. 1909. Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb 12(8):379.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Tumamoc Hill, Flat-top Mountain, Tucson Mountains, 1903 (J.J. Thornber).

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** ARIZ. J.J. Thornber #162. 1903.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** The genus *Boerhavia* contains approximately 30 species (Hickman 1993). Twelve species of *Boerhavia* are recognized by Lehr (1978) as occurring in Arizona. However, *B. intermedia* is now considered a variety of *B. erecta* (Bertelsen 2000).

**DESCRIPTION:** Annual with erect or ascending stems, usually quite branched, with a viscid band around internodes; leaves petioled, oblong to broadly ovate, often acute; flowers pink, cymose or cymose-paniculate, not in racemes; cymules dense with flowers on pedicles not more than 2 mm long; inflorescence glabrous or with minute hairs; bracts small, much shorter than the fruit; fruit 3-4 mm long, erect, smooth or nearly so, with five conspicuous wings.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** Only species within *Boerhavia* found in Arizona with five wings on the fruit. *Boerhavia pterocarpa* has four wings and is bent-down as opposed to erect.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** None

**TOTAL RANGE:** Presently known distribution is Pima County: Tucson Mountains, Tumamoc Hill, Wasson Peak Ridge, Ajo Mountains, Baboquivari Mountains, Santa Rita Mountains (Helvetia), and the Tohono O'Odham Nation; Tucson westward.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** See above

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Herbaceous forb/herb annual.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers pink, flowering in late summer and autumn (August-November).

**BIOLOGY:** Summer annual.

**HABITAT:** Rocky slopes and along washes and canyons.

**ELEVATION:** 2,400 - 4,700 feet (732 - 1434 meters).

**EXPOSURE:** Variable, usually in full sun.

**SUBSTRATE:**

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Desertscrub and desert-grassland.

**POPULATION TRENDS:**

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:** None

**OTHER STATUS:** Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Currently on the NPS - Saguaro National Park, and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument; Tucson Mountain County Park; Private. Possibly on the BIA - Tohono O'Odham Nation, USFS - Coronado National Forest, the State Land Department.

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **LITERATURE CITATIONS:**

Bertelsen, C.D. 2000. Personal communication in review of AGFD, HDMS draft abstract of *Boerhavia megaptera*.

Bowers, J.E. and Turner. 1985. Vascular Plants of Tumamoc Hill. Madrono. Vol. 32. p. 243.

Hickman, J. C. ed. 1993. The Jepson manual, higher plants of California. University of California Press. Berkeley. p. 771.

Kearney, T.H., R.H. Peebles with collaborators. 1960. Arizona flora. Second Edition. University of California Press, Berkeley. p. 277.

Lehr, J.H. 1978. A catalogue of the flora of Arizona. Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix, Arizona. p. 48.

Rondeau, R.J. 1991. Flora and vegetation of the Tucson Mountains, Pima County, Arizona. Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Arizona. Tucson. p. 102.

Rondeau, R., T. R. Van Devender, C. D. Bertelsen, P. Jenkins, R.K. Wilson, and M.A. Dimmitt. 1996.

Annotated Flora and Vegetation of the Tucson Mountains, Pima County, Arizona. Desert Plants, 12:2.

USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

In the Tucson Mountains, Rondeau, et. Al. Describe it as a scattered annual, usually uncommon but common on the Wasson Peak ridge. Found from Gates Pass to Picture Rocks Pass.

**Revised:** 1999-11-08(JCP)  
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