

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

Plant Abstract

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Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE



ME: *Amoreuxia gonzalezii*

COMMON NAME: Saiya (Zaiya), Tamaqui, Santa Rita mountain yellowshow, Santa Rita throwup weed

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Bixaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Sprague and H.P. Riley, 1922. Bull. Misc. Info. Kew 1922(3): 102. 1922.

TYPE LOCALITY: Mexico: Sinaloa: Choix, Cerro del Muerto, alt. 620m. September 27, 1919.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: K. González & Ortega 897, 27 Sep 1919, flowers, fruits. IT: US. USNM reports type fragment collected by M.N. Montes with A.E. Salazar 897, 27 Sep 1919.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Four species recognized within genus of which two are found in Arizona; *A. gonzalezii* and *A. palmatifida* (Kearney et al. 1960). USDA PLANTS Database (2002), reports only three species in genus.

DESCRIPTION: Herbaceous perennial up to 8.0 cm (3.2 in.) tall from a fusiform tuberous rootstock. Leaf blades alternate, long-petioled, 3.0-6.0 cm (1.2-2.4 in.) wide, **deeply 5-7 parted**, dark green above, and paler with scattered dark brown spots and lines beneath. Flowers are few on a single stem, bilaterally symmetric with five petals, 6-8 cm (2.4-3.2 in) wide. Petals are 3.0 cm (1.2 in.) long, bright orange-yellow with 1 or 2 brownish carmine spots near the base (Shreve and Wiggins 1964). However, flowers are described as "pale salmon with the lowermost anthers cream-colored and the upper anthers purple" (Hodgson 1989, and Falk, Jenkins et al, 2001). "*A. palmatifida* are deep salmon-orange with anthers that are all purple" (Hodgson 1989). Flowers close in daytime, therefore harder to document species (Hodgson 1994). Ovary densely silky pubescent in *A. gonzalezii* but puberulent papillose in *A. palmatifida*. Fruits pendant, **ellipsoidal**, 4.5-8.0 cm (1.8-3.2 in.) long, longitudinally striate, and brownish. Brown seeds are **globose** and **aril is readily removed**.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: The range of *A. gonzalezii* overlaps with the range of *A. palmatifida*. Fruits and flowers are needed to distinguish the two species with certainty. Fruits of *A. gonzalezii* are ellipsoid versus globose in *A. palmatifida*, 3.0-4.0 cm (1.2-1.6 in) long, weakly striate, and with scattered reddish glands intermingled with fine hairs. *A. palmatifida* has leaf blades that have 7-9 lobes and coarsely serrate, with seeds that are

kidney-shaped (not globose). Ovary of *A. gonzalezii* has whitish-silky hairs whereas *A. palmatifida* has very rough tiny hairs (minutely hairy). This seems to be a stable characteristic. No evidence of hybridization between *A. gonzalezii* and *A. palmatifida* at the present time. Could be confused with *Manihot*.

ILLUSTRATIONS: B&W photos of plant in habitat (Hodgson 1989:12)
Line drawings of plant with root, fruit and seed (Hodgson 1986).
B&W line drawing of plant with root, fruit and seed (Falk, Jenkins et al. 2001).
Color photo of flower (W. Hodgson, in Falk, Jenkins et al. 2001)
Color photos of plant & habitat (A. Segade, in Falk, Jenkins et al. 2001).
Color photo (L. Pritchett-Kozak, CPC #4459 accessed 6/18/2003 from http://ridgwaydb.mobot.org/cpcweb/CPC_ProfileImage.asp?FN=4459a)

TOTAL RANGE: Southern Arizona (Santa Cruz Co.) south to Sonora, Mexico, and probably Baja California. Total distribution is not known.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Santa Rita Mountains, in Pima and Santa Cruz counties. Would expect to find it south of Tucson in Pima Co. into Cochise Co. (Hodgson 1994). A collection in Cochise County was misidentified, representing *A. palmatifida* (Falk, Jenkins et al. 2001). The Desert Botanical Garden (DBG, 1999), reports that in Arizona, this rare plant is only known from the Santa Catalina Mountains (probably an error).

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Herbaceous perennial.

PHENOLOGY: Dependent on mid-summer rains for flowering. Flowers from July to September, with flowers closing after mid-day. Pollen may be released by vibrations caused by bees buzzing nearby. Fruit develops in late July to August, maturing September to mid-October (Hodgson 1994, Falk, Jenkins et al. 2001).

BIOLOGY: Good production of flowers and fruits appears to be dependent on adequate summer rains.

HABITAT: In Arizona, this species grows on rocky limestone hillsides. In Sonora, it prefers decomposed granite on slopes.

ELEVATION: In Arizona, ranges from 4,200 - 4,600 feet (1281 - 1403 m); in Sonora, about 1,500 feet (458 m).

EXPOSURE: Open, full sun, south and southwest facing slopes.

SUBSTRATE: Limestone outcrops and fine granitic, low soil.

PLANT COMMUNITY: In Arizona, associated species include: *Eysenhardtia*, *Erythrina*, *Cercidium floridum*, *Tecoma*, *Agave schottii*, *Heteropogon*, *Fouquieria*, *Calliandra*, *Opuntia* ssp., *Krameria*, *Janusia gracilis*, *Agave palmeri* and *Hibiscus coulteri*.

POPULATION TRENDS: Four to five micro populations or one mega population of less than 65 plants are known in Arizona from a single limestone outcrop, but the trend is unknown.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None (USDI, FWS 1996)
[Category 2 USDI, FWS 1993]

STATE STATUS: Highly Safeguarded (ARS, ANPL 1999)
[Salvage Restricted, ARS, ANPL 1993]

OTHER STATUS: Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region
3 1999)
[Forest Service Sensitive USDA, FS Region
3 1990]

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Besides its limited occurrence, herbivory is the biggest management problem since this species is very palatable to cattle. Other threats include development, grazing (roots by Javelina), mining, habitat degradation, rarity, and competition with introduced exotic grasses (e.g. buffelgrass [for livestock forage], Lehman's lovegrass), and other aggressive exotic plants.

CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Surveys for additional populations in the U.S. and Mexico are needed. Also need to monitor current populations, understand Mexican status, avoid direct impacts, collect flowering specimens, and survey potential habitat.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: USDA - Coronado National Forest; Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Virtually all parts of the plant were formerly used, including the roots, young fruits, and seeds. Used by Sonoran Pima as a food item, as all parts of the plant are edible. The fleshy roots of both *A. gonzalezii* and *A. palmatifida*, were eaten by the Seri, Pima, and Tohono O'odham people living in the area.

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