

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDCAC040C4

Data Sensitivity: Yes

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Coryphantha scheeri* var. *valida* (Engelm.) L.D. Benson

**COMMON NAME:** Slender Needle Corycactus; Scheer's beehive cactus; Scheer's Pincushion Cactus; pineapple cactus

**SYNONYMS:** *Mammillaria scheeri* var. *valida* Engelm.

**FAMILY:** Cactaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** *Coryphantha scheeri* var. *valida* (Engelm.) L.D. Benson, The cacti of Arizona (ed. 3) 25. 1969. *Mammillaria scheeri* var. *valida* Engelm., Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences 3: 265. 1856.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** LT - USA: New Mexico: Prairies at the head of the Limpio [Limpia Creek].

"Sandy ridges of the Rio Grande near El Paso: fl. July." "Sandy ridges of the valley of the Rio Grande from El Paso to the Cañon; also at Eagle Springs and on prairies at the head of the Limpia." Charles Wright. (Benson, 1981).

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** LT: MO. C. Wright s.n. [478], 25 June 1852. LT designated by Benson, Cacti Ariz. ed. 3 25, 195 (1969). IT: GH.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** Variety *valida* is 1 of 4 varieties in the species *Coryphantha scheeri*, and 1 of 3 in Arizona. The other Arizona varieties include *robustispina* and *scheeri*. Species *scheeri* is 1 of 7 in the genus *Coryphantha*, while *Coryphantha* is 1 of 34 genera in the Family Cactaceae.

**DESCRIPTION:** Plants are erect, spheric and unbranched. The cylindroid stem is solitary, about 15 cm (6 in) high, and is either conspicuous in the open or hidden under bushes. Young areoles are covered densely with wool, but disappear later. Central spines 1 to 4 or 5, 1-38 mm long, not strongly curved and not hooked. Radial spines 9 or 12 to 16, and up to 3 cm (1.18 in) long. Flowers are diurnal, borne at or near the stem apex, on new growth of current year and/or last-produced areoles of preceding year. The sepaloid perianth parts are ciliate (fringed with hairs); petaloid perianth parts yellow; floral tube relatively broad.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** Variety *robustispina* branches and forms clumps; has curved and hooked central spine(s); with flower color yellow, salmon, or rarely white. Variety *uncinata* has 1-3 central spines that are strongly arcuate and apically hooked, and around 16 radial spines.

Variety *scheeri* is not covered with wool; has 1 central spine (not strongly curved or hooked); 6-10 radial spines; and flowers that are yellow with red streaks. (Benson, 1982).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Line drawing of plant and parts (Benson, 1981: Fig. 11.2, P. 196).  
Photo of plant (Benson, 1981: Fig. 11.1, P. 195).  
Color photos of plants (Benson, 1982: Fig. 854-856, P. 819-820).  
Color photos of Lectotype and Syntype collections (MO 2972650, 2972648 and 49, in <http://digitalis.mobot.org/mrsid/bin/mosid/mosid.pl>)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Widespread from west of the Great Plains from Texas, southern New Mexico and southeast Arizona to southern Chihuahua, northeast Durango and southwest Coahuila, Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Southern Pima County, to near Nogales in Santa Cruz County, and in San Simon Valley, Cochise County.

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial shrub/subshrub.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers in July.

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Deep, sandy soils of flats and bottomlands in grasslands and deserts at approximately 1200 m.

**ELEVATION:** 3,900 - 4,800 ft (1200-1464 m).

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:** Sandy soils.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Desert Grassland and Chihuahuan Desert.

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:** Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1999)

**OTHER STATUS:** None

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** As with most cacti, this variety is subject to horticultural collecting.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Private (based on one location in Arizona).

### **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **REFERENCES:**

- Arizona Revised Statutes. 1999. Arizona Native Plant Law, Appendix A.
- Benson, L. 1981. The Cacti of Arizona. Third edition. The University of Arizona Press. Tucson, Arizona. Pp. 194-197.
- Benson, L. 1982. The Cacti of the United States and Canada. Stanford University Press. Stanford, California. Pp. 817-820.
- Correll, D.S., and M.C. Johnston, and collaborators. 1970. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas. Texas Research Foundation. Renner, Texas. P. 1110.
- Harvard University Herbaria. Index of Botanical Specimens. <http://cms.huh.harvard.edu/> Accessed: 8/14/2002.
- [Http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/droplist/dropa-c.htm](http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/droplist/dropa-c.htm)
- Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS). Retrieved 1/13/2005 from ITIS, <http://www.itis.usda.gov>.
- Missouri Botanical Garden – TROPICOS, Nomenclatural Data Base. *Coryphantha scheeri* var. *valida* (Engelm.) L.D. Benson. [http://mobot.mobot.org/cgi-bin/search\\_vast](http://mobot.mobot.org/cgi-bin/search_vast). Accessed: 14 Aug 2002.
- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: August 14, 2002).
- NatureServe. 2004. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 4.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: December 2, 2004).
- SEINet. Collections Search Result. Accessed 12/1/2004 at <http://seinet.asu.edu/collections/list.jsp>.
- The New York Botanical Garden. NYBG Specimens Detailed Results. [http://scisun.nybg.org:8890/searchdb/owa/wwwcatalog.detail\\_list](http://scisun.nybg.org:8890/searchdb/owa/wwwcatalog.detail_list). Accessed: 1/13/2005.
- USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.
- USDA, NRCS. 2004. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National

Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The name *Coryphantha* comes from the Greek *coryph*, head/helmet/crown, and Greek *anthos*, flower, referring to the apical location of flowers in contrast with the ring of lateral flowers in the related genus *Mammillaria*.

**Revised:** 2002-08-22 (SMS)  
2005-01-13 (SMS)

To the user of this abstract: you may use the entire abstract or any part of it. We do request, however, that if you make use of this abstract in plans, reports, publications, etc. that you credit the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Please use the following citation:

Arizona Game and Fish Department. 20XX (= **year of last revision as indicated at end of abstract**). X...X (= **taxon of animal or plant**). Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ. X pp.