

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDBOR0A3K3

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Cryptantha cinerea* var. *arenicola* Higgins & Welsh

**COMMON NAME:** A Cat's Eye, James catseye, James' cryptantha, sand-dwelling cryptantha

**SYNONYMS:** *Cryptantha jamesii* var. *multicaulis*

**FAMILY:** Boraginaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** *Cryptantha cinerea* var. *arenicola* L.C. Higgins & S.L. Welsh, Great Basin Naturalist 46(2): 255. 1986. *Cryptantha cinerea* (Greene) Cronquist, Intermountain Flora 4: 229. 1984.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** USA, Utah, Kane County, Johnson Canyon, Lone Pine Point, at 1830 m, in Navajo blow-sand, in a pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, manzanita, and yucca community.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** HT: BRY. L.C. Higgins, S.L. Welsh & K. Thorne 14296, 6 June 1984. IT: 2 "previously distributed" as *C. cinerea*.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** Variety *arenicola* is 1 of 6 varieties in *Cryptantha cinerea*, and 1 of 4 in Arizona. The other Arizona varieties include: *cinerea*, *jamesii*, and *pustulosa*. Confusion may occur with the common name James catseye or James' cryptantha, which has also been applied to *Cryptantha cinerea* var. *jamesii* (<http://www.wildflower2.org/NPIN/Gallery/Details.asp?ID=15873>).

**DESCRIPTION:** For the species: this plant is 1-6 dm (4-23.6 in) tall, with 1 to many glabrous to conspicuously hirsute stems, 4-40 cm (1.6-15.7 in) long. Leaves are linear to broadly oblanceolate, obtuse to acute, 2-15 cm (0.8-6 in) long and 0.2-1.5 cm wide. They are glabrous to hirsute, usually pustulate dorsally, with the ventral surface lacking pustules or the pustules are very inconspicuous. The inflorescence is open, cymules usually elongating, tomentose to setose-hirsute. The calyx segments are ovate-lanceolate, acute, 3-4 mm long (5-7 mm long in fruit). The corolla is white with a 2.5-3 mm long tube, the crests at the base of the tube conspicuous. The fruit is oblate-ovoid, with 1-4 nutlets maturing, ovate-lanceolate, 2-2.5 mm long. The style exceeds maturing fruit by 1-3 mm. (Welsh et al, 1993).

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo of species (Saint Mary's College of California 1995, in

CalPhotos, 2002 <http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/>)

Color photo of species in flower (Margaret Williams, Nevada Native Plant

Society, in [http://plants.usda.gov/cgi\\_bin/large\\_image\\_rpt.cgi?imageID=crci3\\_001\\_ahp.tif](http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/large_image_rpt.cgi?imageID=crci3_001_ahp.tif)

**TOTAL RANGE:** From Arizona, and three counties in Utah (Garfield, Kane, Washington).

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Unknown.

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

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

**PHENOLOGY:**

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** “Usually on Navajo blow sands in sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, oak, mountain brush, and ponderosa pine communities at 1650 to 2600m” (Welsh, 1993).

**ELEVATION:** 5,410 – 8,525 ft (1650-2600 m).

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:** Navajo blow sands, but occasionally on the Carmel Formation (Welsh et al. 1993).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, oak, mountain brush, and ponderosa pine communities (Welsh, 1993).

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown. In Utah, per the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (1998), “Var. *arenicola* was reported by Higgins (1992) as common to abundant on Navajo blow sand south and west of Boulder, Garfield Co. It is also widely distributed in sandy areas of Kane Co. (Welsh and Eliason 1995). Washington Co. record based on a 1983 collection from Pocket Mesa, Zion Natl. Park (*Higgins & Barnum* 13615, BRY), cited by Higgins and Welsh (in Welsh 1986a).”

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** SC (USDI, FWS 1996)  
[C2 USDI, FWS 1993]  
[C2 USDI, FWS 1990]

**STATE STATUS:** None

**OTHER STATUS:** None

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:****PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:****SUGGESTED PROJECTS:****LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:****SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION****REFERENCES:**

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

**Revised:** 2002-08-22 (SMS)  
2005-01-27 (SMS)

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