

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

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDPGN08231

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Eriogonum ericifolium* var. *ericifolium*

COMMON NAME: Heathleaf wild-buckwheat, Heathleaf wild buckwheat, Yavapai buckwheat, Yavapai County buckwheat

SYNONYMS: *Eriogonum mearnsii* Parry, *E. microthecum* Nuttall subsp. *ericifolium* (Torrey & A. Gray) S. Stokes, *E. fasciculatum* Benth. var. *ericifolium* (Torr. & Gray) M.E. Jones

FAMILY: Polygonaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: *Eriogonum ericifolium* Torr. & A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts Sci. 8: 170. 1870.

TYPE LOCALITY: USA, Arizona, Fort Whipple.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: GH. Coues & Palmer 581, 25 Sep 1865. IT: MO.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: *Eriogonum ericifolium* var. *ericifolium* is 1 of 3 varieties in the species *ericifolium*, and 1 of 2 in Arizona (*pulchrum* is the other variety). *E. ericifolium* is 1 of 221 species in the genus.

DESCRIPTION: A low spreading and matted subshrub, not scapose, 0.5-1.5 x 0.8-2.5(-3) dm [2-6 x 3-10(-12) in], very leafy throughout, mostly floccose or glabrous, greenish. Spreading stems with persistent leaf bases, up to ¼ height of plant; caudex stems absent or compact; aerial flowering stems spreading to erect, slender, solid, not fistulose, 3-10 mm, floccose to thinly tomentose. Leaves cauline, 1 per node or fasciculate; petiole 1-1.5 mm, tomentose; blade linear, 6-10 x 1-2 mm, densely white-tomentose below, glabrous and green above, margins revolute. The inflorescence is umbellate-cymose to cymose and compact, 5-10 x 5-20 mm; branches usually dichotomous proximally; bracts 3, scale-like, linear, 0.5-1.5 mm. Peduncles absent. Involucres 1 per node, turbinate, 1.5-3 x 1-2 mm, floccose; teeth 5, erect. Flowers are white to pink or rose, glabrous, 2-3 mm long; the outer tepals obovate, 2 mm wide, the inner oblanceolate, 0.8-1 mm; stamens slightly exerted, 2-3 mm; filaments pilose proximally. Achenes light brown, 2-2.5 mm, glabrous except for papillate beak. (Reveal, 1976; FNA 1993+).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: In variety *pulchrum*, the upper surfaces of the leaves, the young twigs, and the involucres are whitish and floccos-pubescent (McDougall, 1973). "The species is distinctive, yet some plants appear to approach *E. microthecum* var. *simpsonii*." (FNA 1993+).

ILLUSTRATIONS:

TOTAL RANGE: Endemic to a small area of central Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Near Heber in Coconino County, and Verde Valley in Yavapai County. In 2002, R.B. Duncan reported and collected this plant (ARIZ s.n.) from Pima County, Cienega Creek. It was confirmed by James Reveal, who is now investigating to see if it is a different variety.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial subshrub.

PHENOLOGY: Flowers from August – October (November).

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Dry, gravelly to rocky slopes of lacustrine, in mixed grasslands, chaparral and oak-woodlands.

ELEVATION: 2,950 – 3,470 ft (900-1058 m) in Yavapai County, and 6,300 ft (1920 m) in Coconino County. Collected in Pima County at 3,520 ft (1073 m).

EXPOSURE: All

SUBSTRATE: Limestone and gypsum; lacustrine silt. Verde formation.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Mixed grasslands, chaparral and oak-woodlands (FNA 1993+). Creosotebush desertscrub up to pinyon-juniper woodland. Associated species include: *Acacia greggii* (catclaw acacia), *Aristida* (three-awn grass), *Aristida purpurea* (purple three-awn grass), *Berberis* (barberry), *Bouteloua curtipendula* (side-oats grama), *Canotia holacantha* (crucifixion-thorn), *Castilleja integra* (whole-leaf Indian-paintbrush), *Coryphantha* (= *Escobaria*) *vivipara* (foxtail pincushion cactus), *Dalea* (prairie-clover), *Eriogonum microthecum* (slender buckwheat), *Gutierrezia* (snakeweed), *Juniperus* (juniper), *Krameria erecta* (littleleaf ratany), *Larrea tridentata* (creosote bush), *Opuntia leptocaulis* (Desert Christmas cactus), *Purshia stansburiana* (Stansbury cliff-rose), *Salvia dorrii* (gray ball sage), and *Stipa neomexicana* (New Mexico needlegrass).

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Rare and locally common, in the Verde River Valley of Yavapai County, Arizona.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None
STATE STATUS: None
OTHER STATUS: Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Restricted range that may be susceptible to disturbance such as recreation and development.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BIA – Camp Verde Reservation; NPS – Montezuma Castle National Monument; USFS – Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, and Prescott National Forests; State Land Department; Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

Marc Baker – Camp Verde, Arizona.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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