

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

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDSAX0E0F0

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Heuchera glomerulata* Rosend., Butters & Lakela

**COMMON NAME:** Arizona alum root, Chiricahua Mountain alumroot, Chiricahua alum-root

**SYNONYMS:**

**FAMILY:** Saxifragaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** C.O. Rosendahl, F.K. Butters, & O.K. Lakela,  
Minnesota Stud. Pl. Sci. 2: 155. 1936.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Arizona: Cochise County: Chiricahua Mountains, Rustler's Park.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** HT: MO. G.J. Goodman and C.L. Hitchcock 1184.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** The genus *Heuchera* contains approximately 50 species in North America (Hickman 1993); 36 species reported in PLANTS Database (USDA, NRCS 2002). Six species of *Heuchera* are recognized by Elvander (1992) as occurring in Arizona.

**DESCRIPTION:** Herbaceous perennial with a stout woody crown and root. Leaves all basal, downy rather than hairy, blades 1.5-5 cm (0.6-2 in) long and 3.5-5.5 cm (1.4-2.2 in) wide, broadly ovate-cordate, shallowly 7-10 lobed, the lobes crenate. Petioles are glabrous or with some small hairs, 2-15 cm (0.8-6 in) long. Flowering stems are 25-40 cm (10-16 in) tall, the inflorescence consisting of condensed racemes (3-10), slightly paniculate below, 30-60 cm (12-24 in) tall. The flowers are 3-5 mm long, mostly pale yellow-cream, and densely hirsute to pilose; portion of hypanthium fused to ovary 1-1.5 mm long, ovoid, about equal to free part. Sepals are equal, oblong, and occasionally pink tinged; petals 1-2 mm long, shorter than sepals, obovate to oblanceolate, occasionally pink tinged. The stamens are shorter than the sepals; the anthers are usually purple, sometimes yellow; mature styles are shorter than the sepals. The fruit is short-ovoid with rather obtuse valves.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** *Heuchera glomerulata* is most similar to *H. novomexicana*, in that the leaves are all basal and long-stalked and the petals are shorter than the sepals (Rickett 1970). However, *H. glomerulata* has leaves that are downy rather than hairy, the blades are variegated, thicker, and purple beneath, the flowers are larger (up to 1/6 inch long) and bristly (bristly-hirsute), and are aggregated into dense glomerulate cymes. *H. glomerulata* also has more strongly incurved stamens with larger anthers, much larger petals, and shorter beaks to the carpels. The fruit is short-ovoid with rather obtuse valves, abruptly

tipped with very short true styles and barely exerted; *H. novomexicana*, has valves that taper gradually into narrow points, which are considerably exerted (Rosendahl et al 1936).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo of Holotype collection (G.J. Goodman & C.L. Hitchcock in MGB at [http://mobot.mobot.org/cgi-bin/search\\_vast](http://mobot.mobot.org/cgi-bin/search_vast))

**TOTAL RANGE:** The mountains of southeastern Arizona, and from Animas Peak in New Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** From Pinaleno, Santa Theresa and Galiuro mountains in Graham County; the Santa Catalina and Chiricahua mountains in Cochise County; and the Pinal Mountains in Gila County. Also present in Greenlee, and southern Apache and Navajo counties.

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

**GROWTH FORM:** Herbaceous/deciduous perennial.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers from May to August.

**BIOLOGY:** *Heuchera glomerulata* may hybridize with *H. novomexicana*, with intermediate forms between the two occasionally occurring in Greenlee, southern Apache and Navajo counties, in Arizona.

**HABITAT:** Found on shaded rocky slopes, in humus soil, near seeps, streams and riparian areas.

**ELEVATION:** 4,000 to 9,000 feet (1220-2750 m).

**EXPOSURE:** North facing slope.

**SUBSTRATE:** Sandstone; Humus soil among rocks.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Oak, pine-oak, and pinyon-juniper woodlands, and ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests. In Frank W. Reichenbacher's 1983 collection (ARIZ 1446), *H. glomerulata* was located in a Madrean evergreen woodland, associated with *Quercus emoryi* (Emory's oak) and *Q. arizonica* (Arizona oak). Also reported to be associated with *Arctostaphylos* sp. (Manzanita), *Ceanothus* sp., *Cupressus arizonica* (Arizona Cypress), *Juniperus deppeana* (Alligator juniper), *Penstemon piaifolius*, *Pinus cembroides* (Mexican pinyon), *P. edulis* (Two-needle pinyon pine), and *Quercus reticulata* (*rugosa*) (Net-leaf oak).

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown.

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None  
**STATE STATUS:** None  
**OTHER STATUS:** Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region  
3 1999)  
[Forest Service Sensitive USDA, FS Region  
3 1990]

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** USFS - Coronado and Apache-Sitgreaves National  
Forests; AGFD – Cluff Ranch Wildlife Area.

**SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION****REFERENCES:**

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"A very difficult genus, highly variable at many levels and needing much additional research" (Hickman 1993).

Forms intermediate with *H. novomexicana* occasionally in Greenlee, southern Apache, and southern Navajo counties and may be of hybrid origin (Elvander 1992).

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