

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDROS1J198

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Rosa woodsii* var. *ertterae*  
**COMMON NAME:** Ertter's Rose  
**SYNONYMS:** none  
**FAMILY:** Rosaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Lewis, Walter Hepworth and Barbara Ertter.  
Novon 20(1): 47-52. 2010.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Arizona: Coconino Co.: Oak Creek Canyon at beginning of West Fork Trail.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** MO 6113144 (holotype). B. Ertter (18488) and L. Woodruff. August 12, 2004.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** There are over 40 species of *Rosa*, with additional subspecies, varieties and hybrids in the United States and Canada. *Rosa woodsii* is unquestionably the most widespread and variable of these species. The genus *woodsii* has been divided into six eco-geographically defined subspecies, including *R. woodsii* subsp. *arizonica*. The authors (Lewis and Ertter, 2007 and 2010) in accordance with their use of the varietal rank for "significant but highly localized elements," describe a new variety of *Rosa woodsii* (var. *ertterae*) within the subspecies *arizonica*. Although legitimate nomenclature, this naming process is unusual.

**DESCRIPTION:** The naming publication (Lewis and Ertter 2010) does not include a full description of the new variety. Some information can be excerpted from the key to the subspecies as follows:

Prickles most commonly curved, infrastipular, rarely absent; sepals often stipitate-glandular (except subspecies *puberulenta*); centered in Colorado Plateau Subprovince.

Shrubs mostly 1-3m or more, often forming dense thickets, openly branched; terminal leaflets ovate to elliptic, cuneate or round based, single serrate; riparian sites in bottomlands extending into mountainous regions along waterways.

Sepals most commonly stipitate-glandular; prickles usually strongly curved, short and stout to long and hooked or occasionally intorse; terminal leaflets commonly shorter than 1 cm; Apachian and southern edge of Colorado Plateau Subprovinces.....subsp. *arizonica*

See Aids to Identification, below, to distinguish var. *ertterae* from other subsp. *arizonica*.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** *R. woodsia* var. *ertterae* differs from other populations of var. *arizonica* by having stems and branches that lack prickles even on lower stems or have few, curved and infrastipular prickles; an open branching habit, and only stipulate-glandular sepals (Lewis and Ertter 2010).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**TOTAL RANGE:** Arizona, see Range within Arizona.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Endemic to the West Fork of Oak Creek Canyon, and perhaps nearby canyons, Coconino County.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial shrub, 1-3 meters.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers late May and June, with hips maturing in August and September.

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Well drained slopes and in riparian forests and creek beds.

**ELEVATION:** 5300 – 7000 feet (1615-2135m).

**EXPOSURE:** Not specified. “Partial shade” noted in one collection.

**SUBSTRATE:** Not specified. One collection mentioned a “well drained slope”; another indicated “within creek bed.”

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Sometimes riparian. Associated species noted include: *Cornus sericea*, *Acer negundo*, *Acer glabrum*, *Robinia neomexicana*, *Rubus procerus*.

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown. The variety *R. woodsii* var. *ertterae* was first described in 2010. It is described from about a dozen herbarium specimens, some collected as early as 1928 and 1936. All of the known collections are from only two element occurrences in Oak Creek Canyon. The authors believe it might also be found in several nearby canyons (see Suggested Projects, below). None of the collections commented on population sizes, but since it has been collected from the same sites for over 70+ years, there appears to be some sustainability. NatureServe considers the variety to be critically imperiled (only two known sites). Furthermore, the authors note that the IUCN Red List category of “Near Threatened” seems applicable due to “restricted occurrence in a heavily

used area and the possibility of interbreeding with other *R. woodsii* that occur nearby” (Lewis and Ertter 2010).

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None.  
**STATE STATUS:** None.  
**OTHER STATUS:** Forest Service Sensitive (USDA FS Region 3 2013)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** The authors note that this new variety has only been found in heavily used, pristine areas that are close enough to the trailhead which has been altered during the past 100 years by the introduction of many non-native species, that genetic contamination is possible (hybridization). They do not suggest any mitigative measures.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** This variety is only known to occur on Coconino National Forest land, and was listed in 2013 as a Forest Service Sensitive species. One of the two occurrences is also within the Red Rock Secret Mountain Wilderness Area.

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Explore the other canyons mentioned by the authors (Barney Springs, Casner Cabin Draw, Fernow Draw) to determine if this variety is more widely distribute than currently documented.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** USDA Forest Service, Coconino National Forest (and one of two collections sites also within the Red Rock Secret Mountain Wilderness Area).

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

- Lewis, Walter H. and Barbara Ertter. 2010. *Rosa woodsii* subsp. *puberulenta* and variety *ertterae* (Rosaceae), New in Western North America. *Novon* 20: 47-52.  
Lewis, Walter H. and Barbara Ertter. 2007. Subspecies of *Rosa nutkana* and *R. woodsii* (Rosaceae) in western North America. *Novon* 17: 341-353.  
Tropicos, accessed 05/15/2015, <http://www.tropicos.org/Name/100359223>.

### **MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

- Walter H. Lewis, Washington University, Dept. of Biology, St. Louis, MO.  
Barbara Ertter, University and Jepson Herbaria, Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The varietal epithet recognizes Barbara Jean Ertter, a renowned botanist of the Rosaceae, who first observed the uniqueness of the Oak Creek Canyon rose, and who collected the type material along with Lindsay Woodruff. Dr. Ertter is currently with the Jepson Herbarium at the University of California, Berkeley.

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