

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

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDLAM1U180

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Scutellaria potosina* var. *tessellata*  
**COMMON NAME:** Huachuca Mountain Skullcap  
**SYNONYMS:** *Scutellaria tessellata* (Epling) Holotype.  
**FAMILY:** Lamiaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Turner, Billie Lee. Phytologia 76: 375. 1994.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Holotype: *Scutellaria tessellata* (Epling, C.C. 1939) Arizona, Cochise Co., Huachuca Mountains, 7000 feet.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** US National Herbarium, Smithsonian Institution, US00121283. M.E. Jones (s.n.) September 3, 1903.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** *Scutellaria* is a large genus with over 200 species worldwide. Turner (1994) recognized 26 geomorphological taxa (19 species and 9 varieties) of *Scutellaria* section *Resinosa*, which is a group of xeric or subxeric, mostly taprooted species of Mexico and the closely adjacent U.S. One of 7 species restricted to the United States is *S. potosina*, which had three varieties defined in 1994: *S.p.* var. *platyphylla*, var. *tessellata*, and var. *grahamiana*.

**DESCRIPTION:** Perennial herb, with taproot. Stems branched, 20-32cm long, with few and scattered sessile glands. Leaves opposite, ovate, margin shallowly crenate-dentate, adaxial and abaxial hairs few, scattered, 20-30  $\mu$ m. Flower pedicel length 2-3mm. Mericarp 1.2-1.8mm with papillae flattened at apex. Nutlets tessellate.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** Rhodes and Ayers (2010) provide both a key and a map useful for separating the species and varieties found in Arizona. *S. p. tessellata* is found in southern Arizona (specifically Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties). *S. p. grahamiana* is known only from the type locality in the Galiuro Mts, Graham County. *S. p. kaibabensis* is endemic and known only from four collections on the eastern edge of the Kaibab Plateau. The other species found in Arizona, *S. platyphylla*, can be distinguished by the dense pubescence on both stems and leaves, and because it is found south central Arizona (Yavapai, Maricopa, Gila and Pinal counties).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Herbarium Mounts:

<http://swbiodiversity.org/imglib/seinet/DES/DES00049/DES00049837.jpg><http://swbiodiversity.org/imglib/seinet/DES/DES00043/DES00043531.jpg>

**TOTAL RANGE:** Arizona (three southern counties), New Mexico (only two southwest counties), Texas (only two southwest counties), and northern Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial herb, with taproot.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers: May to October (Rhodes and Ayers, 2010). Collections made in Arizona have noted that flowers were present from early May to mid-November.

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Mexican oak/pine woodland riparian.

**ELEVATION:** Rangewide: 3500-5500 feet (1070-1680m), as reported by Rhodes and Ayers, 2010. One collection in Arizona was made at 6400 feet (1950m).

**EXPOSURE:** Not specified.

**SUBSTRATE:** Many of the Arizona collections were made from riparian settings (rocky stream bank, boggy area, canyon stream), but the species does not seem to be riparian obligate. Other substrates notated include rhyolite and silt loam.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Most often oak woodlands, including wash and riparian settings, but other collections note oak-grasslands and oak-manzanita-grasslands. Other species recorded at collection sites include: *Plantanus wrightii*, *Juniperus*, *Nolina*, *Fraxinus velutina*, *Juncus saximontanus* and *J. tenuis*, *Eleocharis engelmanni*, *Mimulus guttatus*, *Salix gooddingii*, *Populus fremontii*, *Polypogon monspeliensis*, *Plantago virginica*, *Vitis arizonica*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Amsonia grandiflora*, *Spenopolis intermedia*, *Prosopis velutina*, *Pinus cembroides*, *Juniperus deppeana*, *Sapindus saponaria*, *Garrya wrightii*, *Acer negundo*, *Pinus strobiformis*, *Aquilegia chrysantha*, and *Zigadenus virescens*.

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown. Over 30 collections have been made in Arizona since 1913 (over 100 years) but *S.p. tessellata* is known from less than 10 actual sites. It is considered imperiled in Arizona by NatureServe largely because of its limited known distribution.

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None.  
**STATE STATUS:** None.  
**OTHER STATUS:** None.

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Unknown.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** None specified, although any measures taken to protect or enhance riparian settings within the known range of *S.p. tessellata* would likely be beneficial.

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** None, other than to add to collections to better determine distribution. Quantitative surveys whenever the species is encountered would help to better define population status and trends.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** The majority of Arizona collections sites are on US Forest Service lands (Coronado NF). Collections have also been made on DOD lands (Fort Huachuca), BIA (Tohono O'Odham Reservation), and private lands (near Bisbee).

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

JSTOR| Global Plants, accessed 8/27/2013, <http://plants.jstor.org/specimen/us00121283?s=t>.  
Rhodes, S.L. and T.J. Ayers. 2010. Two new taxa of *Scutellaria* Section *Resinosa* (Lamiaceae) from Northern Arizona. J. Botanical Research Institute of Texas 4(1):19-26.  
Tropicos, accessed 8/27/2013, <http://www.tropicos.org/Name/50264476>.  
Turner, Billie. L. 1994. A taxonomic overview of *Scutellaria*, Section *Resinosa* (Lamiaceae). Phytologia 76(5): 345-382.  
USDA, NRCS, Plants Database, accessed 8/27/2013.  
<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=SCPOT>.

### **MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** One Arizona collection record noted that the plant became fragrant when the leaves were crushed.

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