

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

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDRHA05030

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Colubrina californica*
COMMON NAME: California Snakebush, California Snakewood, Las Animas Colubrina; California Colubrina
SYNONYMS: *Colubrina texensis* (Torr. & Gray) var. *californica* L. Benson.
FAMILY: Rhamnaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Johnston, I.M. 1924. Proc. Calif. Acad. IV. 12: 1085.

TYPE LOCALITY: Los Animas Bay, Baja California, Mexico.

TYPE SPECIMEN: Johnson, I.M. 3496. 8 May 1921.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:

DESCRIPTION: Intricately branched, dull colored, somewhat spiny shrub, 1.0-2.0 (-3.0) meters (3.3-6.6 (9.9 ft.) tall. Leaves are oblong-obovate, 0.8-2.0 cm (0.32-0.8 in.) long, entire, rounded to obtuse, and dull gray-green. **Stems covered with dense, matted, wool-like hairs. Flowers inconspicuous** (petals 2.0 mm [0.08 in.] long), yellowish in color, occurring in axillary clusters. Three-lobed, dark purple fruits often persist long after leaves have fallen in late summer.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Similar to *Ceanothus*, however *Ceanothus* has thicker leaves, flowers are showy with petal-like sepals, pedicels and calyx are without hairs, and occurs at above 3,000 feet elevation.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Line drawing (Jaegar 1940:140)

TOTAL RANGE: Southern California; Central, southern, and western deserts of Arizona; Baja California and Sonora, Mexico.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Central Arizona west to California and south to Mexico. Arizona counties include Maricopa, Yuma, La Paz, and Pinal.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Woody Perennial

PHENOLOGY: Blooms in April and May.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Sandy desert washes, steep gullies and rocky or gravelly slopes.

ELEVATION: Below 3,000 feet (915 m); primarily below 2,500 feet (763 m). Based on records in the Heritage Data Management System (HDMS), elevation ranges from 750 - 3,040 ft (229 - 927 m) (AGFD, unpublished data accessed 2001).

EXPOSURE: Various.

SUBSTRATE: Sandy; gravelly; rocky.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Desertscrub in Arizona; chaparral in California. Associated species include *Larrea tridentata* (creosote bush).

POPULATION TRENDS:

SPECIES PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None (USDI, FWS 1996)
[3C USDI, FWS 1985]
[3C USDI, FWS 1983]
[C2 USDI, FWS 1980]

STATE STATUS: None

OTHER STATUS: Not Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)
[Forest Service Sensitive USDA, FS Region 3 1990]

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Development and gravel mining in desert wash situations.

CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Determine palatability to livestock.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BLM - Phoenix and Yuma Field Offices; DOD - Barry M. Goldwater (=Luke-Williams) Air Force Range; USFS - Tonto National Forest; USFWS - Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. Possibly DOD - Yuma Proving Grounds; Arizona State Land Department; and Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

LITERATURE CITATIONS:

Benson, L and R.A. Darrow. 1981. Trees and shrubs of the southwestern deserts. The University of Arizona Press, Tucson. p. 151.

Bowers, J.E. 1980. Flora of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Journal Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science.

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Johnston, I.M. 1924. Proc. Calif. Acad. IV. 12: 1085.

Kearney, T.H., R.H. Peebles with collaborators. 1960. Arizona flora. Second edition with supplement by J.T. Howell, E. McClintock and collaborators. University of California Press, Berkeley. p. 534.

Lehr, J.H. 1978. A catalogue of the flora of Arizona. Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona. p. 93.

Munz, P.A. 1974. A flora of southern California. University of California Press. Berkeley. p. 737.

Shreve, F. and I. Wiggins. 1964. Vegetation and flora of the Sonoran Desert. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. pp. 866-867.

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 1990-11-26 (SR)
1992-09-16 (BKP)
1998-04-03 (SMS)
2001-12-11 (SMS)

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