

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

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDFAB140B0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Coursetia glabella* (A. Gray) Lavin
COMMON NAME: Smooth Babybonnets
SYNONYMS: *Cracca glabella*; *Cracca edwardsi* var. *glabella*; *Benthamantha glabella*; *B. grayi* var.
FAMILY: Fabaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Lavin, M. 1987. Adv. LegumeSyst. 3:63.

TYPE LOCALITY: (*Cracca edwardsi* var. *glabella*: "(not given but inference) Hills between the Babocomari and Santa Cruz" probably Santa Cruz. September 1851. Charles Wright).

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: *Coursetia glabella* integrades with *Cracca edwardsii* (now *Cracca caribea*).

DESCRIPTION: **Herbaceous perennial** with stems 5.0.-30.0 cm (2.0-12 in.) long; prostrate to decumbent; woody caudex (tuber); leaves 3.0-7.5 cm (1.2-3.0 in.) long, pinnate with **13-21 elliptical leaflets** 5.0-15.0 mm (0.2-0.6 in.) long; 2.0-11.0 mm (0.08- 0.44 in.) wide; glabrate above, sericeous (silky white) beneath. Tannins deposited along veins. Flowers **yellow with red only along mid-rib of the banner**; villous ovary.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Only herbaceous *Coursetia* in America. Has more leaflets than other species. Look for tannin deposits in the veins on the underside of the leaflets (Falk, 1999 draft). Normally *Coursetia glabella* differs from *Cracca edwardsii* in having pink flowers and flowering stems from a corm-like caudex instead of an elongate, woody rootstock; some roots tuberous, thickened; pubescence of herbage looser and more spreading; leaflets more broadly obovate, more obtuse at apex; and banner petal yellowish, often purple-veined (instead of red-purple) (Kearney and Peebles 1960). *Calliandra humillus* looks like this *Coursetia* when not in flower and fruit, but leaves of *C. humillus* even-pinnate, *Coursetia*'s leaves are odd-pinnate. Can be confused with *C. caribaea* var. *sericea* which is woody, has an erect habit, leaves with 13 or fewer leaflets and whitish to pink flowers (Falk, 1999 draft).

ILLUSTRATIONS: USFWS Line Drawing.

TOTAL RANGE: Southern Arizona and Mexico (Chihuahua).

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Cochise County: Huachuca and Chiricahua Mountains; Santa Cruz County: Patagonia Mountains and Canelo Hills.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Herbaceous perennial.

PHENOLOGY: Flowering from July to mid-September, with fruit persisting throughout this period into October.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Dry, partially shaded slopes in Madrean oak woodland, oak-juniper and pine-oak forest.

ELEVATION: 5,000 - 7,200 feet (1,700 - 2,200 meters).

EXPOSURE: Varied

SUBSTRATE:

PLANT COMMUNITY: Oak-juniper and pine-oak forest.

POPULATION TRENDS:

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None (USDI, FWS 1996)
[Category 2 USDI, FWS 1993]

STATE STATUS: None

OTHER STATUS: Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Restricted distribution; palatability (however, Lavin and Kearney and Peebles suggest it is palatable).

CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Improve range condition and trend. Population monitoring; identify threats; survey to determine distribution.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: USFS - Coronado National Forest; possibly DOD - Fort Huachuca Military Reservation, The Nature Conservancy, private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

LITERATURE CITATIONS:

- Falk, E. 1999 draft. *Coursetia glabella* (no common name), Fabaceae. Draft abstract from Arizona Rare Plant Book, in prep.
- 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.443.
- Lavin, M. 1988. Systematics of *Coursetia*. Systematic Botany Monographs. 21:106-108.
- Lavin, M. 1985. The identity of *Cracca* Benthham in the United States. Madrono. 32: 95-100.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Plant Taxa for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species; Notice of Review. Federal Register. 58(188):51159.
- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1996. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Review of Plant and Animal Taxa that are Candidates for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species; Notice of Review. Proposed Rule. Federal Register 61(40):7595-7613.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

- Tom Van Devender - Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona.
- Becky Van Devender - University of Arizona Herbarium, Tucson.
- Phil Jenkins - ARIZ Herbarium, Tucson, Arizona.
- Matt Lavin - University of Oklahoma, Stillwater.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Collected for first time since 1928 in Arizona one mile north of Canelo Pass in August, 1990, at 5300 feet elevation.

Kearney and Peebles (1960) state "it is reported that the plants are heavily grazed but quickly recover."

This species is sometimes found in the vicinity of *Browallia* sp. nov., also a candidate/sensitive species, but they do not share the same habitat requirements.

Not seen in Rucker Valley since 1880.

The Canelo Hills plants occur on the O'Donnell Allotment.

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