

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

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDFAB1C0A0

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Desmanthus bicornutus*

**COMMON NAME:** Ruby Bundleflower

**SYNONYMS:**

**FAMILY:** Leguminosae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Watson. 1886. Proc. Amer. Acad. Sci. 21:426.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** San Jose, Chihuahua, Mexico.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** This species is an element of the neotropical flora which reaches its northern extension in Santa Cruz County.

**DESCRIPTION:** Erect, herbaceous perennial legume up to 1.5 m (5.0 ft.) tall. Stems and leaves are glabrous (hairless). Leaves up to 15.0 cm (6.0 in.) long and doubly compound (divided into 5-15 pairs of branches (pinnae) each with 25-50 pairs of tiny leaflets). Each leaflet is linear, 2.0-3.0 mm (0.08-0.12 in.) long, and acute. Flower heads globose, with numerous 3.0 mm (0.12 in.) long white flowers, born in terminal and axillary racemes. Pods linear, 3.0-7.0 cm (1.2-2.8 in.) long, 3.0-3.5 mm (0.12-0.14 in.) wide, with 6-15 seeds.  
**Doughnut-shaped glands with two horns occur on petiole below lowest pair of Leaflets.**

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Line drawing (USDI, FWS)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Southeastern Arizona south to Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, Galimo and Chihuahua, Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** From the vicinity of the Ruby Road and south; Atascosa/Pajarito Mountains, Santa Cruz County.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Herbaceous Perennial

**PHENOLOGY:**

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Mesic situations in canyons.

**ELEVATION:** 3,560 - 4,200 Feet (1086 - 1281 m).

**EXPOSURE:****SUBSTRATE:** Alluvial soil**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Vegetation in canyons is riparian woodland; surrounding community is semidesert grassland or Madrean evergreen woodland.**POPULATION TRENDS:** No seedlings or intermediate stages were observed by Toolin in 1982.**SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION****ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None (USDI, FWS 1996)  
[3C USDI, FWS 1993]  
[Category 2 USDI, FWS 1990]  
[Category 1 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:** Limited range; low number of individuals. Recreation; flooding; mining.**CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN:****SUGGESTED PROJECTS:****LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** USFS - Coronado National Forest.**SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION****LITERATURE CITATIONS:**

- Toolin, L.J. 1982. Status report for *Desmanthus bicornutus*. Prepared for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1990. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1980. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Plant Taxa for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species. Federal Register 45(242):82503.
- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Plant Taxa for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species; Notice of Review. Federal Register 55(35):6200.
- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Plant Taxa for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species; Notice of Review. Federal Register 58(188):51161.
- 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:**

- Phil Jenkins - Southwestern Field Biologists, Tucson, Arizona.
- Jack Kaiser - Retired (USDA) Nogales, Arizona.
- Larry Toolin - University of Arizona, Tucson.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Recent botanical work in Mexico has shown this species to be common in canyon bottoms, roadsides, and abandoned agricultural field habitats in southern and eastern Sonora (Phil Jenkins, 1991).

Based on large range and abundance in Mexico, recommended to be placed in category 3C.

**Revised:** 1990-12-27 (SR)  
1991-11-10 (PLW)  
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