

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDAST3M5Z0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Erigeron compactus*
COMMON NAME: Mound Daisy, Fernleaf Fleabane, Cushion Daisy
SYNONYMS: *Erigeron compactus* var. *compactus*
FAMILY: Asteraceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: S.F. Blake, Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 35(16): 78. 1922.

TYPE LOCALITY: Deep Creek, Utah

TYPE SPECIMEN: Missouri Botanical Garden, MO-797959. Marcus E. Jones, s.n., June 6, 1891.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are about 200 species worldwide, predominantly in temperate areas. Over 50 species are found in Arizona, with about 20, including *E. compactus*, being tracked by the Heritage Data Management Program.

DESCRIPTION: Perennials, 2–10 cm; taprooted, caudices branched. **Stems** erect (scapiform, bracteate), finely strigose, eglandular. **Leaves** (persistent) mostly basal (leaf bases broadened or not, not thickened and whitish-indurate); blades linear, 4–20 × 0.5–1.5 mm, cauline bractlike or absent, margins entire, faces densely, finely strigose (hairs thin-based), eglandular. **Heads** 1. **Involucres** 5–8 × 7–17 mm. **Phyllaries** in 2–3(–4) series, finely and closely strigose (hairs thin-based), inconspicuously minutely glandular. **Ray florets** 15–32; corollas white to pinkish, often with an abaxial lilac midstripe, 6–11 mm (tubes and laminae bases glabrous or glabrate), laminae tardily coiling. **Disc corollas** 4.5–6 mm. **Cypselae** 2.8–3.2 mm, 2-nerved, margins velutinous-ciliate, faces glabrous; **pappi:** outer of setae, inner of 30–40 bristles.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: The common names “mound daisy” or “cushion daisy” derive from the plant’s tendency to form compact mounds that can be about a foot in diameter (0.3 m), or sometimes large mats.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Herbarium Mount (Isotype): <http://plants.jstor.org/specimen/viewer/mo-797959>



Pictures:

TOTAL RANGE: Southwest U.S.: California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: There are three collection sites in Arizona, all from the Navajo Nation in the northeast corner.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: A cushion-shaped perennial, .75-4 inches (2-10 cm.) tall, from a taproot.

PHENOLOGY: Flowering: May to June.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Found on dry, sandy, gravelly or rocky soils, usually within pinyon-juniper woodlands, but sometimes in association with sagebrush or mountain mahogany plant communities.

ELEVATION: Although the literature reports an elevation range of 5500-6000 feet, actual collections made in Arizona range from 5525 to 8842 feet (1684 – 2695 m).

EXPOSURE: Arizona collection data suggests either an open exposure or the shady side of a canyon.

SUBSTRATE: In general, dry, sandy, gravelly or rocky soil, dunes. In California, tends to be found on carbonate substrates. In Arizona, *E. compactus* has been collected from sandstone and granite outcrops as well as sandy and Mancos clay soils.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Pinyon-juniper, sometimes sagebrush or mountain mahogany plant communities. In Arizona, found within desert shrub with scattered juniper, pinyon-juniper, and at one high elevation site (8,800 feet) in a Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) community with *Poa fendleriana*, *Artemisia bigelovii*, *Packera neomexicana* and *Pinus edulis*.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Not well known, but considered imperiled in California and Nevada, and critically imperiled in Utah and Arizona.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

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

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Continue surveys in NE Arizona to obtain a better distribution assessment of the species.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: U.S.D.I. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Navajo Nation.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

- Flora of North America. Volume 20, p. 276 (accessed via efloras, http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=250066574, June 5, 2013).
NatureServe.
<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe?searchSciOrCommonName=Erigeron+compactus&x=11&y=7>, accessed 4/24/2013.
USDA, NRCS, 2013. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, accessed 10 June 2013).
National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901.
USDA, NRCS, 2013. Plants Profile for Erigeron Compactus.
<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ERCO3>, accessed 6/10/2013.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 2013-06-10 BDT

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