

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDBOROG030

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Hackelia besseyi* (Rydb.) J.L. Gentry  
**COMMON NAME:** Bessey stickseed, Bessey's stickweed, gray stickseed  
**SYNONYMS:** *Lappula besseyi* Rydb., *Hackelia grisea* (Woot. & Standl.) I.M. Johnston  
**FAMILY:** Boraginaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** *Hackelia besseyi* (Rydb.) J.L. Gentry, The Southwestern Naturalist 19(2): 139. 1974. *Lappula besseyi* Rydb., Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 31(12): 636. 1904[1905].

**TYPE LOCALITY:** U.S.A. Colorado, from the neighborhood of Pike's Peak: mouth of Cheyenne Canyon, Alt. 8,000 feet.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** HT: NY-335477. E.A. Bessey s.n., 25 Jul 1895.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** According to Gentry (1974), the correct name for this species is *Hackelia besseyi* with *Hackelia grisea* placed in synonymy. The species *besseyi* is 1 of 29 in the genus *Hackelia*.

**DESCRIPTION:** Herbaceous biennial with 4-10 dm (16-39.4 in) high hirsute stems, that are branched above. The lower leaves petioled, 6-15 cm (2.4-6 in) long, with spatulate or oblanceolate, obtuse blades, hispidulous and hirsute on the veins. Martin and Hutchins (1981), report basal leaves as 3-5 cm long. The cauline leaves are sometimes narrowly oblong, the upper ones sessile and lanceolate. The inflorescence is sparsely flowered, and branched with small bracts; leafy bracted only at the base. The pedicels in fruit are 4-5 mm long, more or less reflexed. Sepals are ovate, obtuse, and the corolla is dark blue, scarcely over 1.5 mm wide. Fruit are about 3 mm wide, with distinct marginal spines in one row; the back is flat, spineless, but minutely hispidulous.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** In general habit *Hackelia besseyi* resembles most *Lappula floribunda*, but is distinguished by the very small flowers and fruit. It differs from *Hackelia hirsuta* in that it is a slender plant, and has flowers that are only 1-2 mm in diameter, and only a few inflorescence bracts at the bases of the cymes (Sivinski 1999).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo of Holotype specimen (NY-335477, in [http://scisun.nybg.org:8890/searchdb/owa/wwwcatalog.detail\\_list?this\\_id=4399801](http://scisun.nybg.org:8890/searchdb/owa/wwwcatalog.detail_list?this_id=4399801))

**TOTAL RANGE:** Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, and possibly Arizona. It occurs in one Colorado county and one Texas county, and in the Jemez and Sandia Mountains of New Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Potentially in Arizona.

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Biennial to perennial forb/herb.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers from July and August.

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** On Montane slopes and in canyons.

**ELEVATION:** 6,500 – 8,000 ft (1981-2438 m).

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:**

**PLANT COMMUNITY:**

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:** None

**OTHER STATUS:** None

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Studies to determine life history factors, population status, and distribution range need to be performed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

**SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION****REFERENCES:**

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Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 2004-09-02 (AMS)

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