

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDLOA04030

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Petalonyx parryi* Gray

**COMMON NAME:** Parry sandpaper-plant, Parry's sandpaper plant, Parry petalonyx

**SYNONYMS:** *Petalonyx nitidus* S. Watson ssp. *parryi* Urban & Gilg

**FAMILY:** Loasaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** *Petalonyx parryi* Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 10: 72. 1874.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Near St. George, Utah, United States of America.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** HT: GH-76076. C.C. Parry 75, 1874. IT: BRY, NY 112250-112251.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** The species *parryi* is 1 of 4 in the genus *Petalonyx*.

**DESCRIPTION:** Rounded perennial shrub, 0.5-1.5 m (1.5-5 ft) high and about 0.9 m (3 ft) in diameter. Leaves are oblong-ovate to broadly elliptic, 1.5-4 cm long and 1.2-3 cm wide, entire or crenate, the surface muriculate-scabrous; petiole 0.5-2.5 mm long. The inflorescence is a naked spicate raceme, congested apically, to 65-flowered. The bracts are pale, chartaceous to tan, lanceolate to lance-ovate, acuminate, scabrous, 6-14 mm long. Flowers white to cream colored; petals 10-15 mm long; sepals linear, 2.5-4mm long. The claws are linear, 6.3-10 mm long; stamens exserted, 11-17 mm long. Capsules are 2-4 mm long.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** "Differs from *P. nitidus* in its predominantly woody habit, its entire to crenate leaf margins (vs. coarsely few-toothed), and its petals longer than 11 mm vs. shorter." (Utah Native Plant Society (UNPS), 2003-2005).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo of Isotypes (Parry, NY-11250&11251, in <http://207.156.243.8/emu/vh/specimen.php?irn=554451> also 554452).  
Color photos of plant and habitat (A. Frates, in UNPS 2003-2005)  
Color photos of flower and plant (James M. Andre, 2005, in CalPhotos at <http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/>)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Northwestern Arizona, southwestern Utah, extreme southern Nevada, and California.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Western Coconino and northern Mohave counties.

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

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial shrub/subshrub.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers in April and May.

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Dry, desert washes and canyons; gypsum hills. In Utah, in “shadscale, indigo bush, creosote bush, and ambrosia communities, on Chinle and Moenkopi outcrops between 2,550-4,000 feet elevation.” (UNPS, 2003-2005).

**ELEVATION:** Below 3,500 ft (1069 m) in Arizona. Collected between 2,000-3,200 ft (610-976 m) (SEINet, accessed 3/16/2005). In Utah, between 2,550-4,000 ft (778-1220 m) (UNPS, 2003-2005).

**EXPOSURE:** N to E-NE slopes of 5-20%. Collected in 1978 (Gieresch) on 20-60% slopes.

**SUBSTRATE:** Often on gypsum and micaceous shales. Collected on red Moenkopi formation soils, and silty-clay loam.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Mohave Desertscrub community. Associated species include: *Atriplex confertifolia* (shadscale), *Ephedra* (Mormon-tea), *Eriogonum* (wild buckwheat), *Hymenoclea* (burrow-bush), *Lycium* (desert-thorn), *Phacelia* (scorpion-weed), *Psorothamnus* sp. (Indigo-bush), *Psorothamnus fremontii* (Fremont’s Psorothamnus), and *Suaeda* (seepweed).

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** It is common where it occurs but within a limited range.

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:** None

**OTHER STATUS:** None

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Surveys to determine current range and population status need to be performed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BLM – Arizona Strip Field Office; NPS - Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Mead National Recreation Area; State Land Department. In Utah, BLM – St. George Field Office.

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

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#### MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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