

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDPGL021H0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Polygala rusbyi*

COMMON NAME: Hualapai milkwort, Rusby's milkwort, ruby polygala

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Polygalaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Greene, Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 10 (12): 125. 1883.

TYPE LOCALITY: Near Prescott, Arizona, April 1883, Rusby.

TYPE SPECIMEN: Isolectotype: GH, H.H. Rusby, July 1883.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: The species *rusbyi* is 1 of 65 in the genus *Polygala*.

DESCRIPTION: According to Kearney and Peebles (1951), it is a low shrub with few stems, relatively stout. Has branch tips occasionally spine-like, leaves with soft spreading hairs 3-12 mm wide; rose-purple flowers with a blunt yellow tip; wing petals 8-10 mm long. Also according to Greene (1883) it is a hoary pubescent, 2-6 inches (5-15 cm) high, stems numerous, much branched, spineless; leaves ovate to ovate-oblong, acute or obtuse, 0.5 in (1.3 cm) long, sessile, or nearly so; bracts scarious; pedicels 2-4 lines long; sepals pubescent and ciliate, the outer slightly saccate at the base; wings oblong, flesh colored, 4-5 lines long; lateral petals linear, a little longer than the yellow keel, which has a long, nearly straight beak, a little widened at the apex; young capsules broadly obovate, emarginated, nearly smooth; seed not seen.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Largest, showiest flowers of Arizona *Polygala*.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

TOTAL RANGE: Central and west-central Arizona, in Yavapai and Mohave counties.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: See "Total Range."

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial subscrub, shrub.

PHENOLOGY: April to July

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Desert grassland and juniper woodland.

ELEVATION: 3,150-5,000 ft (960-1524 m).

EXPOSURE: Has been found on west- and east-facing slopes.

SUBSTRATE: Sandy flats and limestone bedrock, rock, gravel, and silt.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Desert grassland, juniper woodland. Associated species include: *Bromus*, *Astragalus*, *Krameria*, *Canotia holacantha*, *Sphaeralcea*, *Larrea*, *Juniperus osteosperma*, and *Sophora arizonia*.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None

STATE STATUS: None

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

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BIA - Hualapai Reservation; BLM - Kingman Field Office; NPS - Montezuma Castle National Monument; USFS – Coconino and Prescott National Forests; Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Revised: 2002-01-10 (AMS)
 2003-02-14 (SMS)

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Arizona Game and Fish Department. 20XX (= **year of last revision as indicated at end of abstract**). X...X (= **taxon of animal or plant**). Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ. X pp.