

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDLAM22080

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Trichostema micranthum*

**COMMON NAME:** Small-flower bluecurls, smallflower bluecurls

**SYNONYMS:**

**FAMILY:** Lamiaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** A. Gray, Syn. Fl. N. Amer. 2(1): 348. 1878.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Bear Valley, San Bernardino County, California, United States of America.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** HT: GH-2254. C.C. Parry & J.G. Lemmon 340, 1876.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** A distinct species in a genus of 14-15 species in North America. UC/JEPS (1993) reports +/- 17 species in genus.

**DESCRIPTION:** Erect and branching herbaceous annual, 10-30 cm (4-12 in.) tall, with short, appressed, glandular hairs. Leaves very narrowly lance-shaped, 2.0-2.5 cm (0.8-0.9 in.) long and 2.0-5.0 mm wide; petiole indistinct. Small blue-violet flowers, 2-10 per cluster (cymose), with 2.0-3.0 mm long petals. Calyx lobes are acute, equal and widest at the base. The corolla tube is 1-2 mm long, curved gradually upward, included, the lower lip 1.5-2 mm; stamens are 2-3 mm long, included or barely exerted, slightly arched or straight, exceeding the petals by about 1.5 mm. Nutlets (seeds) about 1.0-2.0 mm long with a netted surface. This species has a strong vinegar odor.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** *Trichostema micranthum* is separated from *T. brachiatum* by having a corolla tube curved upward and the leaves are 2 - 6 mm wide. In *T. brachiatum*, the corolla tube is straight and the leaves are 4-16 mm wide. (Kearney and Peebles 1960 supplement).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo (Accessed 2/11/2004 from <http://www.calflora.net/bloomingplants/smallflowerbluecurls.html>)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Baja California, southern California, western Arizona.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Mount Trumbull, northern Mohave County around 5900 feet elevation. Discovered in 1941 by Jaeger.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Herbaceous annual.

**PHENOLOGY:** Blooming period from July to September.

**BIOLOGY:** Unknown.

**HABITAT:** Drying margins of wet places (lakes, meadows, streams) in mountains.

**ELEVATION:** 6,000 - 7,500 feet (1800-2300m). From 6,500-7,500 feet (2000-2300 m) in the San Bernardino Mountains, California.

**EXPOSURE:** Open

**SUBSTRATE:** Dry sand

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Chaparral and grassy opening in pine woodlands. Yellow pine forests in San Bernardino Mountains in California.

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Uncommon were found in range.

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:** Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1999)  
[Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1993)]

**OTHER STATUS:** None

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Unknown.

**CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN:** Unknown.

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Studies of habitat requirements, and attempts to determine the range and current population status of this species should be performed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BLM – Arizona Strip Field Office.

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

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

*Trichostema*: from *trichos*, “hair,” and *stema*, “stamens,” and alluding to the hair-like stamens.

**Revised:** 1992-12-08 (JSP)  
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