

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDMAL020J0  
Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Abutilon reventum* S. Watson  
**COMMON NAME:** Yellowflower Indian Mallow, Yellow-flower Indian-mallow, Yellow Indian Mallow  
**SYNONYMS:**  
**FAMILY:** Malvaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** S. Watson, 1886, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 21:418.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Hacienda, San Jose, 25 miles south of Batopilas, Chihuahua, Mexico.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** HT: GH 52648. Edw. Palmer #56, Aug 1885, flower and fruit. LT: MO.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** In the United States, species *reventum* is 1 of 27 in the genus *Abutilon*. There are 49 genera in the family Malvaceae.

**DESCRIPTION:** Tall, perennial herb with a woody base, to about 1.8 m (6 ft) tall; stems to 2.5 m (3.3 ft (ARIZ 243742)). Petioles 5-15 cm (2.0-6.0 in) long, leaf blades heart-shaped, 6-25 cm (2.4-10 in) long, palmately veined, tapering abruptly to the tip, with shallow, rounded teeth on the margins. Hairs present on the leaves with a few equal branches (stellate); hairs absent on the stems and leaf stalks. Flowers are bright yellow, with petals 10-12 mm long; many anthers are present, clustered at the filament tube apex. Fruit consists of 7-8 carpels, each 10-12 mm long with 3-4 seeds; style branches are as many as the carpels.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** This is the only *Abutilon* in Arizona with bright yellow flowers rather than orange. Leaves and the general appearance are similar to *Abutilon sonorae* and *Anoda abutiloides* but floral and fruit characters differ. In addition, the absence of long hairs on the stems seems to be the only important character separating this from *A. sonorae*. *Abutilon reventum* is much less common within the Sonoran Desert than *A. sonorae*. *A. reventum* occurs mainly in the scrub formations just above the true desert.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Colored Photo of specimen (US 15207, Palmer, E. 56, in  
<http://botany.si.edu/types/fullrecords.cfm?myfamily=>)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Southern Arizona south to Chihuahua, Oaxaca, Queretaro and Zacatecas, Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Occurs along the Geronimo Trail in Cochise County; Pinaleno Mountains in Graham County; also in the Baboquivari, Coyote, Rincon, and Santa Catalina mountains of Pima County; and in Santa Cruz County they can be found in Sycamore Canyon in the Pajarito Mountains, Tumacacori Mountains, and in the Foothills near Nogales.

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

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial shrub subshrub.

**PHENOLOGY:** April to September.

#### **BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Found on slopes and along streams in canyons. NatureServe (2008) reports that from southern Arizona to southern Mexico (Oaxaca) *A. reventum* occurs in arroyos and disturbed areas; and in southern Sonora, Mexico it occurs from 250-1000 m (820-3279 ft) in the tropical deciduous forest zone. Collected in Arizona on steep gneiss cliffs, rocky slopes, and on fine alluvial deposits along small washes (ARIZ, in SEINet 2008).

**ELEVATION:** 3,600 - 6,000 ft. (1097-1829 m). NatureServe (2008) reports elevation from 3,000 - 4,000 ft (915-1220 m).

**EXPOSURE:** SE- and SW-facing slopes, and N-facing canyon (on W side of cliffs ASU 231928).

**SUBSTRATE:** Kearney and Peebles (1951), reports that in Arizona this species occurs in rich soil near streams. Collected on gneiss slopes to cliffs (ARIZ, in SEINet 2008).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** In the Sonoran Desert usually near the upper limits of the Lower Sonoran Zone (Shreve and Wiggins 1964, in NatureServe 2008); paloverde-saguaro desertscrub and desert grassland/pinyon-juniper woodland (ARIZ and ASU, SEINet 2008). Associated species include: *Acacia constricta* (whitethorn acacia), *Acacia greggii* (catclaw acacia), *Agave* sp., *Anisacanthus thurberi* (Thurber's desert honeysuckle), *Baccharis sarothroides* (desertbloom), *Carnegia gigantea* (Saguaro), *Celtis reticulata* (= *C. laevagata* var. *reticulata*, netleaf hackberry), *Coursetia glandulosa* rosary babybonnets), *Larrea tridentata* (creosote bush), *Lysiloma watsoni* (litleleaf false tamarind), *Mimosa biuncifera* (= *M. acaleaticarpa* var. *biuncifera*, catclaw mimosa), *Parkinsonia* (palo verde), *Pinus monophylla* (singleleaf pinyon), *Platanus* (Sycamore), *Prosopis juliflora* (mesquite), *Prosopis* sp. (mesquite), *Quercus arizonica* (Arizona white oak), and *Yucca* sp. (SEINet, 2008).

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown.

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

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

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** In Arizona threats include grazing.

**CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Surveys needed to determine the distribution, life history, ecology and grazing impacts.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** NPS – Saguaro National Park; USFS – Coronado National Forest; Sabino Canyon Recreation Area.

**SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION****LITERATURE CITATIONS:**

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- USDA, NRCS. 2008. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

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[http://zipcodezoo.com/Plants/A/Abutilon\\_reventum.asp](http://zipcodezoo.com/Plants/A/Abutilon_reventum.asp).

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

C. Jenkins - University of Arizona Herbarium, Tucson.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 1992-12-03 (DBI)  
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