

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDAST2E2M0

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Cirsium rydbergii* Petrak

**COMMON NAME:** Rydberg's Thistle

**SYNONYMS:** *Cirsium lactucinum*

**FAMILY:** Asteraceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Welsh, S.L. et al. 1987. A Utah flora, 9:173-174.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Hanging gardens near Bluff, Utah.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** One of approximately 15 species of *Cirsium* within Arizona (Kearney and Peebles 1960). According to McDougall (1973), may be only a variety of *C. bipinnatum*.

**DESCRIPTION:** Perennial herb from a diefinite caudex and taproot, the caudex clothed with blackish brown leaf bases; leaves of basal rosette mainly 30.0-90.0 cm (12.0-35.5 in.) long, 15.0-40.0 cm (6.0-16.0 in.) wide, bipinnatifid, the lobes narrow to very broad, glabrous to glabrate on both surfaces, the main spines 2.0-11.0 mm (0.1-0.4 in.) long; stems 6.0-12.0 dm (24.0-48.0 in.) tall or more, glabrous; cauline leaves glabrous, less lobed and much reduced upwards; dorsal glandular fidge lacking, the inner attenuate, not scabrous; flowers pink;  $2n = 34$ .

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** According to McDougall (1973) *C. rydbergii* very close to *C. bipinnatum* and "may be no more than varietally distinct from that species." *C. rydbergii* differs from *C. bipinnatum* primarily in having the outer phyllaries appressed or strongly ascending instead of widely spreading and in having the bases of the leaves rounded and somewhat clasping."

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**TOTAL RANGE:** Garfield, Grand, Kane, San Juan and Wayne Co., Utah; one record in Arizona.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** One record prior to 1973 from Black Mesa, northern Apache County (McDougall 1973).

## **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Herbaceous perennial

**PHENOLOGY:**

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Hanging gardens, or rarely in the canyons below, in wet seeps.

**ELEVATION:** 6,000 ft (1829 m) in Arizona.

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:**

**PLANT COMMUNITY:**

**POPULATION TRENDS:**

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None (USDI, FWS 1996)  
[Category 3C USDI, FWS 1985]

**STATE STATUS:**

**OTHER STATUS:**

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Survey suitable habitats for new populations.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

**LITERATURE CITATIONS:**

Kearney, T.H. and R.H. Peebles. 1960. Arizona flora (with supplement). University of California Press, Berkeley. p.951.

Lehr, J.H. 1978. A catalogue of the flora of Arizona. Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix. p.157.

McDougall, W.B. 1973. Seed plants of northern Arizona. The Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff. p. 513.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

Barb Phillips - Flagstaff, Arizona

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 1989-11-09 ( )  
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