

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDCAC060P0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Echinocereus pseudopectinatus*
COMMON NAME: Devil Thorn
SYNONYMS: *Echinocereus bristolii* var. *pseudopectinatus* (basionym),
Echinocereus scopulorum subsp. *pseudopectinatus*
FAMILY: Cactaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Taylor, Nigel Paul. In: Bradleya; Yearbook of the British Cactus and Succulent Society 7: 74. 1989.

TYPE LOCALITY: Mexico: Sonora: Moctezuma.

TYPE SPECIMEN: K 64699 (holotype of *Echinocereus bristolii* var. *pseudopectinatus*). Lau, #607. 1972/1973.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: NatureServe (2015) lists 23 species, another 43 subspecies or varieties, and one named hybrid of *Echinocereus*. Twelve species are found in Arizona, as are 17 of the varieties or subspecies (one). Three of the species are only found within the State.

DESCRIPTION: **Plants** unbranched (rarely few branched). **Stems** erect, short cylindric, to 20 × 4-6 cm; ribs 13-19, crests slightly undulate; areoles 4-8 mm apart. **Spines** 13-17 per areole, stiff and straight, white, pink, or gray, becoming gray with dark tips; radial spines 12-17 per areole, appressed to spreading, 2-12 mm; central spines (0-)1-4 per areole, projecting, 1-4 mm. **Flowers** 5-8 × 7-10 cm; flower tube 15-25 × 8-20 mm; flower tube hairs 3-5 mm; inner tepals purplish pink, darker proximal portion and midstripes, 35-45 × 10-22 mm, tips relatively thin and delicate; anthers dark yellow; nectar chamber to 3 mm. **Fruits** dark green, brownish tinged, 15-23 mm, pulp white (Flora of North America 2015).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Photos and Herbarium Mounts:

<http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?taxon=Echinocereus%20pseudopectinatus>.

Photos:

http://www.llifl.com/Encyclopedia/CACTI/Family/Cactaceae/16478/Echinocereus_pseudopectinatus.

TOTAL RANGE: Arizona; Sonora Mexico, but NatureServe also indicates New Mexico and Texas.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Cochise County: around the Mule and Parilla Mountains (within 20 miles of Douglas).

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Short [to 8 inches (20cm)], cylindric, perennial succulent.

PHENOLOGY: Flowering times not well known; fruiting 2 months after flowering.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Chihuahuan Desert, desert scrub, mostly semi-desert grasslands, rocky slopes, mostly igneous substrates.

ELEVATION: 3935 – 4590 feet (1200-1400 m), Flora of North America 2015). The three Arizona collection sites are from 4400 – 4800 feet (1340-1463m).

EXPOSURE: Not specified.

SUBSTRATE: Igneous substrates, although one collection noted rocky limestone slopes.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Chihuahuan desert scrub; semi-desert grassland. Plants associated with Arizona collections include: *Celtis*, *Baccharis*, *Prosopis*, *Opuntia engelmannii*, *Yucca*, *Florensia*, *Fouquieria*, *Acacia neovernicosa*, *Calliandra*, *Opuntia spinosior* and guayule.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:

This species is common in desert grasslands in southeastern Arizona and northeastern Sonora. It also occurs in foothills thorn scrub where is uncommon to rare. IUCN RedList
Pop Trend – stable from EOL, IUCN RedList

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None.

STATE STATUS: Salvage Restricted (ARS ANPL 1999)

OTHER STATUS: “Least Concern” (IUCN RedList 2013)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: It grows in heavily grazed areas but does not seem to be affected by it. There are no known threats to this species (IUCN RedList 2013).

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: This cactus is protected by its “salvage restricted” designation under Arizona Native Plant Law, and is listed as a species of “least concern” by IUCN. There are no evident threats and it is locally common in many portions of its range. It does not seem to be affected by heavy grazing.

The species does not occur in any protected areas.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: None.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Arizona State Land Department Trust Land, and private land holdings.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

- Encyclopedia of Cacti, accessed 12/03/2015, http://www.llifile.com/Encyclopedia/CACTI/Family/Cactaceae/16478/Echinocereus_pseudopectinatus.
- Encyclopedia of Life (EOL), accessed 12/02/2015, <http://eol.org/pages/486522/details>.
- Flora of North America (eFloras.org), accessed 12/02/2015, http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=242415261.
- IUCN RedList, accessed 12/03/2015, <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/152184/0>.
- NatureServe Explorer, accessed 12/03/2015, <http://explorer.natureserve.org/index.htm>.
- Paredes, R., Van Devender, T.R. and Felger, R.S. 2000. Cactáceas de Sonora, México: su diversidad, uso y conservación. Arizona-Tucson Desert Museum Press, Tucson.
- Tropicos, accessed 12/02/2015, <http://www.tropicos.org/Name/50179823>.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Misidentifications of *Echinocereus pseudopectinatus* were the basis for Arizona reports of *E. pectinatus* and *E. dasyacanthus*, which belong to an unrelated species group from the Chihuahuan Desert. Formerly, *E. pseudopectinatus* was considered conspecific with *E. bristolii* W. T. Marshall, a closely related endemic species of Sonora, Mexico (Flora of North America 2015).

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