

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDPGN086E2

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Eriogonum zionis* var. *zionis*

**COMMON NAME:** Zion Buckwheat

**SYNONYMS:** *Eriogonum racemosum* var. *zionis*, *Eriogonum zionis*

**FAMILY:** Polygonaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Welsh, S. L. 1984. Great Basin Naturalist 44:543.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Zion Nat. Park on the Mt. Carmel highway in the canyon of Clear Creek, Washington Co., Utah. Sept. 8, 1938.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:**

**DESCRIPTION:** Perennial herb. Stems usually 20-40 cm tall, simple or with a few branches toward the top, glabrous or often glaucous, the lower internodes more or less inflated. Leaves all basal; blades ovate or nearly oblong, rounded at the apex, subcordate or cuneate at the base; petioles longer than the blades. Inflorescence a simple or few branched raceme; involucre about 3 mm long and few flowered, tomentose; calyx 5 mm long, yellowish-green, glabrous (McDougall 1973, Phillips et al. 1982).

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** The flowering stems of *Eriogonum zionis* var. *zionis* distinguish the taxon from the typical variety of *E. racemosum*. The flowering stems of var. *zionis* are glabrous or sometimes tomentose and are usually definitely swollen below the first branches and often upward as well. These flowering stems of var. *racemosum* are not at all or only occasionally swollen and are tomentose or only occasionally glabrous (Welsh 1987). The bright red flowers of *E. zionis* var. *coccineum* easily distinguish that taxon from var. *zionis* (Phillips et al. 1982).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**TOTAL RANGE:** Kane and Washington Counties in southern Utah and northern Coconino County, Arizona.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Paria Plateau, Coconino County.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**PHENOLOGY:** Observed flowering in September and October in Arizona.

**GROWTH FORM:** Herbaceous perennial

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** In Arizona this species occurs in deep sandy soil in open woodland, within Great Basin Conifer Woodland (Pinyon-Juniper Woodland) communities in Arizona. In Utah, this species occurs in mountain-brush, juniper-manzanita, and ponderosa pine habitat (AGFD/HDMS, Welsh 1987).

**ELEVATION:** Approximately 4200 - 7000 ft. (1280 - 2135 m) (AGFD/HDMS, Welsh 1987).

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:** In Arizona, this species is found in deep sandy soil (Sandstone) of the Paria Plateau (AGFD/HDMS).

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** In Arizona, this species is found in Great Basin Conifer Woodland (pinyon-juniper woodland ) communities. In Utah, this species is apparently found in mountain-brush, juniper-manzanita, and ponderosa pine communities (Welsh 1987).

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:**

**STATE LIST STATUS:**

**OTHER STATUS:**

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS/MANAGEMENT NEEDS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**RECOMMENDED PROJECTS:** Monitor existing populations and search for new populations.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Zion National Park, National Park Service; Arizona Strip District, Bureau of Land Management; other ?.

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

- Arizona Game and Fish Department. Heritage Data Management System. Element Occurrence Information.
- Kearney, T.H., and R. H. Peebles. 1960. Arizona flora. University of California Press, Berkeley. p. 242.
- McDougall, W. B. 1973. Seed plants of northern Arizona. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff. p. 139.
- Phillips, A.M. III, and B.G. Phillips, N. Brian, C. Babcock, J. Mazzone, and E. Peterson. Unpublished Status Report: *Eriogonum zionis* var. *coccineum*. Submitted to USFWS, Albuquerque, NM. 13 pp.
- Welsh, S.L. et al. 1987. A Utah Flora. Great Basin Naturalist 9:484.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

- Art Phillips III, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- Barb Phillips, Coconino Nat. Forest, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- Stan Welsh, Department of Botany and Range Science, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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