

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

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDAP10Z0N0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Eryngium phyteumae* Delar. F.

COMMON NAME: Huachuca Mountain coyote-thistle, Huachuca Mountain eryngo

SYNONYMS: *Eryngium discolor* Wats.

FAMILY: Apiaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: F. Delaroché, *Eryngiorum nec non Generis Novi*
Alepidae Historia 51, t. 21. 1808.

TYPE LOCALITY: (*Eryngium discolor*: Cochise County: Huachuca Mountains).

TYPE SPECIMEN: (*Eryngium discolor*: Lemmon. 1882).

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: The genus *Eryngium* contains approximately 200 species worldwide (Hickman 1993). Five species of *Eryngium* are recognized by Lehr (1978, and Lehr et al. 1980) as occurring in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: Herbaceous perennial, with slender erect stems, 3-6 dm (12-24 in) high, bearing a single head (rarely more). Leaves are up to 40 cm (16 in) long, with margins that are nearly entire, and not prickly. Basal leaves occur on very long petioles, are oblong to narrowly oblanceolate, thin, and slightly crenate. The stem leaves are few, sessile, linear-lanceolate, and acutely or spinosely toothed. Ovate to oblong heads are about 12 mm long, and surrounded by long, narrow bracts, that are bicolored and spinose tipped. The bicolored bracts (white or blue within and green without) are longer than the heads and entire or sparingly spinose-toothed, with a conspicuous terminal tuft of exserted bractlets resembling the bracts; ordinary bractlets are narrow, with a long spinose acumination. Cylindrical or ovoid clusters of flowers varying from blue to purplish-crimson, are 12-24 cm long. Fruit with ovate abruptly cuspidate-tipped calyx lobes, and long slender styles. (Rickett 1970; Correll and Correll 1975; Martin et al. 1998).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: *Eryngium phyteumae* can be most easily identified by its amethystine, cylindrical-ovoid heads. Also, the basal leaves are obscurely crenate or serrate, not spinose, whereas the other species within Arizona have more evident spinose-serrate or entire leaves.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color Photo (Horst, in Rickett 1970: Pl. 95).

TOTAL RANGE: Southern Arizona, and Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Cochise County: Huachuca Mountains.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Herbaceous forb/herb perennial.

PHENOLOGY: Flowers from August to October.

BIOLOGY: Obligate wetland species.

HABITAT: Aquatic habitats in low places, including cienegas; streams in meadows, rolling open valley.

ELEVATION: 6,000 feet to about 7,550 feet (1830-2300 m).

EXPOSURE:

SUBSTRATE: Aquatic habitats with argillaceous soils.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Pine-oak woodland, where is transitions from pines to meadow.

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown. Abundance and distribution in Mexico is unknown, but the species is restricted to aquatic habitats in a mostly dry region (NatureServe 2003).

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:	None
STATE STATUS:	None
OTHER STATUS:	Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS:

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Currently (Feb. 2000), there are no documented occurrences within Arizona.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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- Lehr, J.H. 1978. A catalogue of the flora of Arizona. Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix, Arizona. p. 112.
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- Missouri Botanical Garden – TROPICOS, Nomenclatural Data Base. *Eryngium phyteumae* F. Delaroché. http://mobot.mobot.org/cgi-bin/search_vast. Accessed: 10 Mar 2004.
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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ARIZ 273536 Gentry 2770a, was once erroneously distributed as an isotype of *Eryngium gentryi*. To avoid confusion, the letter "a" has been added to Gentry's collection number (Martin et al 1998).

Revised: 2000-02-09 (JCP)
2004-03-18 (SMS)

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Arizona Game and Fish Department. 20XX (= **year of last revision as indicated at end of abstract**). X...X (= **taxon of animal or plant**). Unpublished abstract compiled and edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ. X pp.