

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDCAC0V012

Data Sensitivity: YES

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Peniocereus greggii*  
**COMMON NAME:** Night-blooming Cereus  
**SYNONYMS:** *Cereus greggii*  
**FAMILY:** Cactaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Britton and Rose. 1909. Contr. U.S. Nat. Herb. 12:428. 1909.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Near Cadena, south of Chihuahua (1847).

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** *Peniocereus greggii* has two varieties, *greggii* and *transmontanus*. Variety *transmontanus* is the more wide-spread in Arizona; var. *greggii* occurs in Arizona only east of the Chiricahua Mountains.

**DESCRIPTION:** A slender-stemmed cactus with a large turnip-like root; stems inconspicuous, resembling dead limbs of shrubs, 0.3-0.6 m. long, to 12 mm in diameter, no trunk and stems single or sparingly branched; stems strongly ribbed (4-6) above, minutely and densely canescent; flower white, nocturnal, 5-7.5 cm diameter, 15-21 cm long; floral tube 10-15 cm long; fruit red, fleshy ellipsoid, 5-7.5 cm long, 2.5-3.8 cm diameter, with aleoles bearing short spines; seeds black, obovoid, with hilum on truncate seed-base.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Line drawing (Wendy Hodgson, Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix, Arizona).  
Benson, L. 1982.

**TOTAL RANGE:** Southern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, western Texas, and south into Sonora, Chihuahua, and Zacatecas.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Widespread south of Mogollon Rim

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Succulent Perennial

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowers May - June

**BIOLOGY:** Flowers are nocturnal. Fruits turn red when ripe. Plant usually hidden in other plants.

**HABITAT:** Sonoran desertscrub (Arizona and Sonora), and Chihuahua desertscrub (New Mexico, Texas, Chihuahua and Zacatecas).

**ELEVATION:** Below 4000 feet (1220 m) in Sonoran Desert; 3000-5500 feet (915-1678 m) in Chihuahuan Desert.

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:** Various.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Sonoran and Chihuahuan desertscrub.

**POPULATION TRENDS:**

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None (USDI, FWS 1996)  
[*P. g. var. transmontanus* = 3C, USDI, FWS 1990]

[*P. g. var. greggii* = C2, USDI, FWS 1990]  
[*P. greggii* = C2, USDI, FWS 1980]

**STATE STATUS:** Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 2000)  
[Salvage Restricted, ARS, ANPL 1993]

**OTHER STATUS:**

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Often collected for cactus trade.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Land Department and private.

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

- Arizona Revised Statutes, Chapter 7. 1993. Arizona Native Plant Law. Appendix A:1.  
 Arizona Revised Statutes, Chapter 7. 2000. Arizona Native Plant Law. Appendix A:1.  
 Benson, L. 1982. The Cacti of the United States and Canada. Stanford University Press.  
 Stanford, California.  
 Gibson, A.C., K.E. Horack. 1978. Ann. Missouri Bot. Garden 65:999-1057  
 USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1980. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants:  
 Review of Plant Taxa for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species, Notice of  
 Review. Federal Register 45(242):82496.  
 USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants;  
 Review of Plant Taxa for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species, Notice of  
 Review. Federal Register 55(35):6194.  
 USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1996. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants:  
 Review of Plant and Animal Taxa that are Candidates for Listing as Endangered or  
 Threatened Species, Notice of Review, Proposed Rule. Federal Register 61(40):7596-  
 7613.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

- D. Pinkava - Arizona State University, Tempe.  
 T.R. VanDevender - Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona.  
 F.W. Reichenbacher - Southwestern Field Biologists, Tucson, Arizona.  
 C. May - Pima Community College, Tucson, Arizona.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

VanDevender, Reichenbacher and May: Plant is widely scattered and locally common in deserts of southwestern Arizona. Probably in no immediate jeopardy.

Gibson and Horack 1978: Provided generic characters for the use of *Peniocereus* instead of *Cereus*.

**Revised:** 1981-xx-xx (ANHP)  
 1991-11-13 (SR)

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