

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

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDAST700D2

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Perityle gilensis* var. *salensis*

COMMON NAME: Gila Rock Daisy, Fish Creek Rock Daisy, Salt River Rock Daisy

SYNONYMS: *Laphamia gilensis* ssp. *longibolus*

FAMILY: Asteraceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: A.M. Powell, Sida 5(2): 104-106, f. 7. 1973. *Laphamia gilensis* ssp. *longibolus* Niles in the Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 21: 51-54 1970. Appeared in print after the Powell work had been accepted for publication and therefore is nomenclaturally preceded.

TYPE LOCALITY: Salt River Canyon between Globe and Show low, Gila County, Arizona. Collected by Sikes in 8-1969.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: SRSC, S. Sikes, 428, 18 August 1969. IT: SMU, TEX.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: This taxon is considered the same entity as *Perityle gilensis* var. *longibolus* according to Powell and Yarborough (Phytologia 82: 328, 1997; cf. Kartesz 1999). The correct name at the varietal level is var. *salensis* (described in 1973), not var. *longibolus*, as that combination dates from 1997 (whereas at the subspecies level, the latter taxon dates from 1970). The species *gilensis* is 1 of 35 in the genus *Perityle*. Two varieties of *P. gilensis* occur in Arizona, and include var. *gilensis* and var. *salensis*.

DESCRIPTION: The plant is 30-70 cm (11.8-27.5 in) tall and sprawling. It has thick stems, which are upright to hanging. The stems are 40-50 cm (15.7-19.7 in) tall, becoming purple at the base. The dark green leaves are mostly simple and narrow with entire margins. The middle leaves are divided into 2-3 linear lobes with the middle lobe usually being the largest. The leaves are not hairy and they are 3.5-5.5 cm (10 cm max) long. The flowers are born in heads on rather stout stems, the ray flowers number 8-12 and are 1 cm long and are yellow. The central disc flowers are tubular, 5-6.5 mm long and yellow.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Its long, extremely narrow leaves and trailing habit distinguish this variety. *Perityle gilensis* var. *salensis* is geographically separated from the typical variety and possesses larger structures as well as a different chromosome number.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Photo of holotype (Powell 1973, pp 104-106)

Black and White Line Drawing (Niles 1970, pp 52)

Herbarium Mounts: <http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?tid=13678>.

TOTAL RANGE: Salt River Canyon between Show Low and Globe, Gila County, Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: See “Total Range.”

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Herbaceous perennial subshrub or forb/herb.

PHENOLOGY: Flowering July to August, sets seed in mid August. Also reported August to October and spring – fall (Fletcher 1978).

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Grows on nearly inaccessible crevices on cliff faces, ledges, rock outcrops; igneous canyon walls.

ELEVATION: 3,000 – 3,800 ft (914-1159 m), based on actual collection records.

EXPOSURE: All plants noted to date have been on a northern exposure.

SUBSTRATE: Igneous bluffs, the parent material has been noted as sandstone and sedimentary, too.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Transition between oak-juniper woodland (*Quercus-Juniperus*) and mountain mahogany-oak scrub (*Cercocarpus-Quercus*) in Interior Chaparral of the scrub formation. Dominant associated species include *Haplopappus spinulosus* (iron plant golden weed), *Opuntia phaeacantha* (prickly pear), *Nolina* sp. (beargrass), and *Peucephyllum schottii* (pigmy-cedar). (Phillips III et al., 1980). Other species in vicinity include scrub oak, *Celtis*, *Ponderosa*, and *Chilopsis*.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown. There is a single known occurrence, with two adjacent source features. Most collection records notes state the plant is scarce or rare. NatureServe considers the variety to be critically imperiled. The author however (A. Michael Powell, in a letter to AGFD HDMS dated January 10, 1980) states that he does not believe the plant is threatened. Many species of *Perityle* have very restricted occurrences.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None (USDI, FWS 1986)
[3C USDI, FWS 1985]
[3C USDI, FWS 1980]
[PE USDI, FWS 1976]

STATE STATUS: None

OTHER STATUS: Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3
2013)
[Forest Service Sensitive USDA, FS Region 3
1999]

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: None specified.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Naturally protected by its isolated habit in cracks and crevices of near vertical to overhanging cliffs.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: A survey of the Salt River above and below known collections is recommended for a proper evaluation of this species.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs (San Carlos and Fort Apache Indian Reservations). Possibly on USDA Forest Service lands (Tonto National Forest).

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

Fletcher, R. 1978. *Perityle gilensis* var. *salensis* abstract. Region 3, U.S. Forest Service. Flora of North America. Accessed November 13, 2019.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 2002-12-20 (AMS)
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