

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDROS1B2X1

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Potentilla rhyolitica* var. *chiricahuensis*

COMMON NAME: Chiricahua Cinquefoil

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Rosaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Ertter, Barbara Jean. Jour. Bot. Res Inst.
Texas 1(1): 52. 2007

TYPE LOCALITY: Arizona: Chiricahua Mountains: Flys Peak, ca. 40 air miles SE of Willcox,
T18S R30E, 9660 feet.

TYPE SPECIMEN: MO 2195516 (Isotype). BJ Ertter, #11871. June 2, 1993.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are 157 recognized species, subspecies and varieties of *Potentilla* in the U.S. and Canada. Arizona has 23 species, 14 varieties and three subspecies. *Potentilla rhyolitica* has two recognized varieties: *P.r.* var. *rhyolitica* and *P.r.* var. *chiricahuensis*. The former occurs in the Santa Rita and Huachuca Mountain ranges, while the latter is only found in the Chiricahua Mountains.

DESCRIPTION: Stems 0.2–1(–1.5) dm. Leaves green; long hairs of petioles 1–2(–3) mm; leaflets: hairs common, rarely dense. Flowers 1–5; filaments 2–3 mm; carpels 5–10, styles (2–)2.5–3 mm. Achenes 2 mm, smooth. (Flora of North America 2015.)

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Variety *chiricahuensis* is known only from the Chiricahua Mountains (Cochise County). It differs from the typical variety in being less densely hairy, with somewhat longer and coarser hairs and larger achenes. It is also less likely to be found rooted in outcrops, favoring rocky flats. (Flora of Arizona 2015.)

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Herbarium Mounts:

<http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?taxon=Potentilla%20rhyolitica%20var.%20chiricahuensis>.

TOTAL RANGE: Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Known only from the Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial forb.

PHENOLOGY: Flowers: May-June

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Rocky openings in mixed conifer forests.

ELEVATION: 9100 – 9650 feet (2775-2940m), based on Arizona collections records.

EXPOSURE: One collection specified north facing slopes; another indicated a rocky opening within a forest.

SUBSTRATE: Associated with rhyolitic substrates.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Mixed conifer forests. Associated with *Pinus flexilis*, *P. ponderosa*, *Pseudotsuga*, *Populus tremuloides*.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown for Arizona. The species is known from only a limited area in the Chiricahua Mountains where it has been collected in 1959, 1975 and 1993. There is no information available for relative abundance or trend.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None.

STATE STATUS: None.

OTHER STATUS: None.

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: None specified.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: None specified. Known collections sites are within the USFS Coronado National Forest, Chiricahua Wilderness Area.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Re-visit the known locations to determine if the plant is still extant. Survey similar sites in the Chiricahua Mountains to determine if the range is wider than currently documented. Collect notes on relative abundance.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest, Chiricahua Wilderness Area.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

- Flora of North America (eFloras), accessed 7/16/2015,
http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=250100699.
JStor| Global Plants, accessed 7/16/2015,
<https://bioticsaz.natureserve.org/biotics/services/page/Eo/20453.html>.
NatureServe Explorer, an Encyclopedia of Life, accessed 7/16/2015,
<http://explorer.natureserve.org/>.
Tropicos, accessed 7/16/2015, <http://www.tropicos.org/Name/50312161>.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 2015-07-17 (BDT)

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