

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

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDMAL020P0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Pseudabutilon thurberi* (A.Gray) Fryxell
COMMON NAME: Thurber's False Velvetleaf, Thurber's Indian Mallow, Thurber Abutilon
SYNONYMS: *Abutilon thurberi* A.Gray, *Pseudabutilon sonorae* Wiggins
FAMILY: Malvaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: A. Gray. 1854. Mem. Amer. Acad. Arts 5:307. Pl. Nov. Thurb.

TYPE LOCALITY: Mexico, Sonora: Magdalena.

TYPE SPECIMEN: *Thurber 911*, Oct. 1851.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: The genus *Pseudabutilon* consists of 19 accepted species, 2 of which occur in the United States. *P. thurberi* is the only member of its genus to occur in Arizona. Previously classified as an *Abutilon*, *Pseudabutilon thurberi* was moved from that genus due to the presence of an endoglossum, one of the defining characters of *Pseudabutilon*, along with having a distinctive and uniform fruit morphology, similar pubescence patterns (some stellate hairs and long simple hairs), and a distinctive chromosome number ($x=8$) (Fryxell 1997).

DESCRIPTION: Subshrub, erect, sometimes decumbent. Roots fibrous. Stems green, sparsely villous, hairs long, spreading, sometimes with small stellate hairs. Petioles 1/2-1 times blade length, leaf blades 3-10 cm, ovate, 3-6 cm wide, sparsely pubescent with appressed hairs above and below, hairs often fewer below, margins crenate-serrate, base shallowly cordate, pedately 7-nerved. Inflorescence solitary or paired; pedicel 0.5-2.5 mm long, pilose, slender, articulated below flower; calyx 4-5 mm long; petals 4-6 mm long, orange-yellow; staminal column glabrous, filaments 2 mm long; styles 5. Fruit a schizocarp, subequal to calyx, glandular, straw-colored; mericarps 5, usually with 3 seeds, endoglossum present, apically spinescent, spines usually recurved. Seeds 2-3 mm, sparsely stellate-puberulent.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: 1 of 2 species of *Pseudabutilon* in the United States (the other occurs in Texas). In Arizona, may be confused with *Abutilon wrightii*, which has denser pubescence on leaf undersides (McNair et al. 2018).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Black and White line drawing (Falk, Jenkins et al. 2001).
Color photo of habitat (Falk, Jenkins et al. 2001).
Color photo (SEINet)

TOTAL RANGE: Southern Arizona; Mexico (Sonora)

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Mouths of canyons on the west slopes of mountain ranges in Santa Cruz (Santa Rita Mountains) and Pima (Baboquivari Mountains) counties.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Subshrub, often erect, generally under 1 m

PHENOLOGY: Flowers late summer to fall, after monsoon rains (August to October)

BIOLOGY: Presumably dies back after flowering, may be hard to find in non-summer months

HABITAT: Canyons and floodplain benches, usually found in partial shade, near the mouths of canyons in the Arizona Desert. Benson and Darrow (1981) report elevation ranges from 1,500-3,000 ft (458-915 m).

ELEVATION: 2,624 – 3,937 ft (800-1200 m)

EXPOSURE: Often in shade of other shrubs

SUBSTRATE: Gravel, canyon bottoms

PLANT COMMUNITY: Desert grasslands and shrublands; one collection cites it being from a 'mesquite thicket' (*Peebles* 8987) (SEINet 2020).

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown. Populations in Baboquivari Mountains have not been observed since 1940. Population of approximately 300 plants discovered on west slope of the Santa Rita Mountains in 2018.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None

STATE STATUS: Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 2016)
[Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1999)]
[Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1993)]

OTHER STATUS:	None
MANAGEMENT FACTORS:	All occurrences on private land
PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:	None
SUGGESTED PROJECTS:	None
LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:	Private, BIA - Tohono O'Odham Nation.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**Revised:**

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