

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

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDRAN0L093
Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Ranunculus andersonii* var. *juniperinus*
COMMON NAME: Juniper Buttercup
SYNONYMS: *Ranunculus juniperinus*, *Beckwithia juniperina*, *Ranunculus andersonii* var. *tenellus*
FAMILY: Ranunculaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Welsh, Stanley Larson. Great Basin Naturalist 46(2): 260. 1986.

TYPE LOCALITY: Copper Mine, 18 mi. W of St. George, in Beaverdam Mts., Washington Co., Utah.

TYPE SPECIMEN: BM 565582 (isotype of *Ranunculus juniperinus*). ME Jones (#5011). April 4, 1894. Also US 365874 (isosyntype for *R. juniperinus*).

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are over 150 species and varieties of the genus *Ranunculus* found in the U.S. and Canada. Arizona has 10 species and another six varieties (NatureServe 2015).

DESCRIPTION: Terrestrial perennial, 0.5-3 dm tall, glabrous; stems scapose 1.5-4 mm thick, not rooting at the nodes; blades of basal leaves compound, 1-5 cm long, 1.5-5.5 cm wide, triternately 2-3 times divided, the ultimate segments 0.5-4 mm wide, acute, petioled 1-12 cm long; cauline leaves lacking, or a single bracteate leaf subtending a second pedicel; sepals 5, reddish or purple, 6-15 mm long, glabrous, spreading, persistent; petals 5, red purple, 12-17 mm long, orbicular; achenes 4.5-6.5 mm long, 30-60 in a hemispheric cluster ca 10 mm long and 9-15 mm wide; beaks 0.2-1 mm long; receptacle glabrous (Welsh et al 1993).

Although *R.a. juniperinus* is one of two “weakly morphological and partially sympatric” varieties recognized (Welsh et al 1993) it is distinguished as subscapose, with (1)2 or 3 flowers per inflorescence, these subtended by one or more filiose bracts.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: See Description, above.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Photos, Herbarium Mounts: <http://eol.org/pages/473793/media>.

TOTAL RANGE: Washington, Kane, Iron and Millard Counties, southwest Utah, and northwest Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: NW corner of State: the Arizona Strip in Mohave County, and north Coconino County along the Utah border.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Terrestrial perennial herbaceous plant.

PHENOLOGY: Not specified. Plants collected mid-March to mid-May in Arizona had flowers.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Great Basin Pinon-Juniper to Spruce-Fir.

ELEVATION: 4000 – 7000 feet (1220-2135m), Welsh et al 1993. The four known Arizona collections were within this published range, specifically from 4200 – 5400 feet.

EXPOSURE: Not specified.

SUBSTRATE: Two of the Arizona collections noted a limestone substrate.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Pinyon-Juniper, Ponderosa Pine, Aspen-Spruce-Fir. Other plant species noted as Arizona collection sites include: *Juniperus osteosperma*, *Pinus monophylla*, *Opuntia*, *Bromus tectorum*, *Artemisia tridentata*, *Purshia glandulosa*, *Garrya flavescens*, *Cowania*, *Buddaleja*, *Notholaena*.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown for Arizona. There are only four known collection sites and two of these are historical (1978). At one site, the species was noted as locally common.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None.

STATE STATUS: None.

OTHER STATUS: None.

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: None specified.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: None.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Re-verify if species is still extant at known collection sites; expand surveys to other similar settings in the Arizona Strip to determine if there is a wider distribution.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: All four collections are on USDI, Bureau of Land Management lands, the Arizona Strip Field Office.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

- NatureServe Explorer: An Online Encyclopedia of Life, accessed 07/14/2015, <http://explorer.natureserve.org/index.htm>.
Tropicos, accessed online 7/13/2015, <http://www.tropicos.org/Name/27101165>.
Welsh, Stanley L. 1986. New Taxa and Combinations in the Utah Flora. Great Basin Naturalist. 46(2): 260.
Welsh, Stanley L., N. Duane Atwood, Sherel Goodrich and Larry C. Higgins, eds. 1993. A Utah Flora, 2nd ed. Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. pp. 579-580.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: One of the more distinctive species placed traditionally in the genus *Ranunculus*. The species should possibly be segregated into another genus. The *juniperinus* phase has long been regarded at the species level as *R. juniperinus*, based mainly on size of the achenes (4-6mm versus 9-14mm for *R. andersonii*), but an east-west cline exists in fruit size, and flower number too is equivocal (Welsh et al 1993).

Revised: 2015-07-14 (BDT)

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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.