

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDSAX0U2L0

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Saxifraga flagellaris*
COMMON NAME: Whip Saxifrage, Stoloniferous Saxifrage, Whiplash Saxifrage,
Spider or Spider-legged Saxifrage
SYNONYMS: none
FAMILY: Saxifragaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Willdenow. ex Sternb. Revisio
Saxifragarum 25. t 6. 1810.

TYPE LOCALITY: Alaska: Ft. St. Michaels, Norton Sound.

TYPE SPECIMEN: U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution US 857923. H. Bannister (#SN). Western Union Telegraph Extension Exploring Expedition. 1865.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are over 100 species, subspecies and varieties of the genus *Saxifraga* in the United States and Canada. There are also differing opinions regarding the taxonomy of the species in Arizona. The more recent treatment is by Elvander 1992. He presents the family Saxifragaceae as represented by four genera: *Parnassia*, *Heuchera*, *Lithophragma*, and *Saxifraga*. The genus *Saxifraga* has six species in the State: *flagellaris*, *caespitosa*, *rivularis*, *odontoloma*, *eriophora*, and *rhomboidea*. The original treatment for Arizona is Kearney and Peebles 1960. They recognize a total of nine genera for the family, and also six, but somewhat different species of Saxifraga: *S. arguta*, *eriophora*, *rhomboidea*, *flagellaris*, *caespitosa*, and *debilis*.

DESCRIPTION: **Plants** in solitary clumps, stoloniferous, slenderly rhizomatous. **Leaves** basal and cauline; petiole absent; blade oblong-lanceolate or elliptic to obovate, unlobed, 5-20 mm, fleshy, margins entire, sparsely to densely, coarsely glandular-ciliate, distal sometimes ciliate, apex acute to \pm obtuse, mucronate, surfaces glabrous. **Inflorescences** 2-3(-5)-flowered, lax cymes, sometimes solitary flowers, 1-15 cm, densely purplish-tipped stipitate-glandular; bracts sessile. **Flowers:** sepals erect, elliptic or oblong-ovate, margins stipitate-glandular-ciliate, surfaces stipitate-glandular; petals yellow, not spotted, elliptic to broadly obovate, 4-9(-10) mm, longer than sepals; ovary superior to ca. 1/2 inferior (Flora of North America 2015).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Leaves basal and cauline, flowers 1 or 2, sometimes 3 (*not* more than 10); petals yellow (*not* white), leaf margins entire (*not* lobed), glandular-ciliate (Elvander 1992).

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Photos: <http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php>.

Photos and Herbarium Mounts: <http://eol.org/pages/583355/media>.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, to Alaska and western Canada, south along the Rocky Mountain states including Montana, Colorado, northern New Mexico, and Arizona, too.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: San Francisco Mountain, Coconino County.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial herb.

PHENOLOGY: Flowers: July-September. Arizona collections noted flowers from July 16 to July 31.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Moist rocky slopes, ridges and meadows (Elvander 1992). Found growing in crevices above timberline, in alpine communities.

ELEVATION: Above 10,000 feet (3050m), per Elvander 1992. Actual collections in Arizona range from 11600 – 12350 feet (3535-3765m).

EXPOSURE: Probably any. Noted from both NE (mesic) and SW (xeric) slopes.

SUBSTRATE: Shallow loam, among lava boulders, in crevices.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Above timberline, alpine communities. Associated plants noted *Cystopteris* and *Huechera*.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS: Unknown for Arizona. The species has been collected from four nearby sites in the San Francisco Mountain between 1938 and 1983. One collected noted the plant was infrequent. There is insufficient data to infer population status 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. However, all known sites are within the Kachina Peaks Wilderness Area of Coconino National Forest, and likely derive some level of protection from this setting.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Since the species only occurs in Arizona at the upper elevations of San Francisco Mountain and has not been verified as extant since 1983, at least the known locations should be re-surveyed.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Coconino National Forest, Kachina Peaks Wilderness Area.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

- Elvander, Patrick. 1992. Saxifragaceae – Saxifrage Family. Jour. Az-Nev Academy Science 26(1): 36-41.
- JStor|Global Plants, accessed 05/01/2015,
<http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.us00857923>.
- Flora of North America, eFloras, accessed 05/01/2015,
http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=1&taxon_id=242425299.
- Kearney, Thomas H. and Robert H. Peebles. 1960. Arizona Flora, 2nd ed. with supplement. University of California Press, Berkeley. 1085 p.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 2015-05-01 (BDT)

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