

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

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDCAC0J042

**Data Sensitivity:** Yes

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Sclerocactus parviflorus* var. *parviflorus*  
**COMMON NAME:** Small flower fishhook cactus  
**SYNONYMS:** *Sclerocactus whipplei* var. *roseus*; *Echinocactus parviflorus*  
**FAMILY:** Cactaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Clover & Jotter, Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club  
68 (6): 419, f. 8. 1941.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Mouth of Forbidding Canyon, in Glen Canyon, Utah, USA.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** HT: MICH, E.U. Clover, with M.L. Jotter 2398, 7-6-1938. IT: US 2346042.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** Variety *parviflorus* is 1 of 2 in *Sclerocactus parviflorus*, the other is variety *intermedius*. Both varieties occur in northern Arizona. Treated at the subspecies level by some as *Sclerocactus parviflorus* ssp. *parviflorus*.

**DESCRIPTION:** A succulent cactus with stems solitary or sometimes 2 or 3, elongate and cylindroid or the younger ones ovoid, the one 7.5-15(20) cm (3-6[8] in) long, 5-6(10) cm (2-2.2[4] in) in diameter. The stems are mottled with some gray, red or brown spines and some white spines. Ribs number +/- 13-15. The well developed but upper portions of tubercles standing above ribs 6-12 mm long and broad and protruding 6-10 mm. Areoles are 4.5-6 mm in diameter, typically 9-12 mm apart. The areole with spines and felty wool, showing the lower (principal) holed central spine and the pale pink, ribbonlike upper central spine as well as two laterals and the few radial spines. The upper central spine is pale pink, somewhat flattened or angled, elliptic or rhombic as seen in cross section, inconspicuous, not subulate about 1 mm broad. The lower hooked central spine is reddish, usually curving markedly, slender, and usually 1.5-2 in long. The flower is 0.75-1 in long, 2-7 cm in diameter. Sepaloids with greenish midribs and rose to purple, pink, or white margins, the larger oblanceolate, 25-45 mm long, 6-10 mm broad, mucronate, marginally membranous and crisped or irregularly minutely toothed. Petaloids are rose to purple, pink, or rarely white, 15-50 mm long, 6-12 mm broad, mucronate, apically slightly irregularly toothed. Anthers yellow, 1-3 mm long; style green or tinged pink or purple, 15-25 mm long, covered with minute hooked hairs; stigmas 5 or 6; ovary in anthesis +/- 6 mm long. Fruit green or tan or tinged with pink, dry at maturity. Seeds are 2 mm long, 3 mm broad; hilum not deeply indented. (Benson 1981; Benson 1982).

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** *Sclerocactus parviflorus* var. *parviflorus* has a pale pink, somewhat flattened or angled upper central spine, elliptic or rhombic in cross section, not subulate, +/- 1mm broad. The flower diameter is 2-7 cm, and it inhabits the lower parts of the Navajoan Desert, near major rivers. In contrast, *S. p.* var. *intermedius* has a white, flat, upper central spine that is very narrowly elliptic in cross section, narrowly subulate, ribbonlike, basally 1-1.5 mm broad. The Flower diameter is 2-4.5 cm, and it inhabits the higher Navajoan Desert in Northern juniper-pinyon woodland. (Benson 1982).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo of the species (*In* [http://www.kaktusy.nets.pl/sclerocactus/sclerocactus\\_parviflorus.jpg](http://www.kaktusy.nets.pl/sclerocactus/sclerocactus_parviflorus.jpg)  
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Black & white photos (Benson 1982, fig 782-783)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Almost restricted by altitude to areas near major watercourses, such as the Fremont, Colorado, Green, and San Juan rivers in southeastern Utah and westernmost Colorado and northern Arizona. May also occur in New Mexico and Nevada.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** The species is found in Coconino and Navajo counties, and possibly Apache County.

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial succulent shrub/subshrub.

**PHENOLOGY:**

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Lower parts of Navajoan Desert, near major rivers.

**ELEVATION:** 3,500-5,000 or 6,700 ft (1067-1524 m) or (2042 m) but mostly at lower levels.

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:** Red sand from red sandstones of the Navajo country and other sandy or gravelly soils in desert.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:**

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:**

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:**

### **STATE STATUS:**

Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1999)

### **OTHER STATUS:**

### **MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

### **PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

### **SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** For the species: BIA - Kaibab Paiute and Navajo Reservations; NPS - Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Navajo National Monument; Private.

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

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**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 2003-02-07 (AMS)  
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