

Beardless Chinch weed

Pectis imberbis

STATUS: Positive 90-day Finding (77 FR 47352, August 8, 2012).

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: Beardless chinch weed is an erect, many-branched, perennial herb growing 3 to 12 decimeters (dm) (12 to 47 inches (in)) from a woody caudex (stem base). The glabrous (hairless) leaves are 1 to 5 centimeters (cm) (0.4 to 2 inches (in)) in length and 1 to 2 millimeters (mm) (0.04 to 0.08 inches (in)) wide with pointed tips, becoming smaller toward the tips. The leaves have a row of narrow, oval-shaped glands on the underside surface near each margin and a single, oval-shaped gland on the upper surface. Daisy-like flower heads containing yellow ray and disk flowers are solitary or in open, flat-topped clusters at the tips of the branches. The petals are also dotted with oil glands. Flowering occurs from August to October when the plants are over 0.5 meters (m) (1.6 feet (ft)) in height.

HABITAT: Beardless chinch weed is located at elevations ranging from 1,150 to 1,725 meters (m) (3,773 to 5,660 feet (ft)). While more typically found in tropical deciduous forests and oak woodlands at higher elevations, and grasslands at lower elevations, it has also been found on disturbed road cuts, arroyo cuts, and unstable rocky slopes, where it has little competition for sunlight.

RANGE: Beardless chinch weed is found in the Atascosa, Huachuca, Oro Blanco, Patagonia, and Santa Rita Mountains, and the Canelo Hills of Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona, as well as Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Threats to beardless chinch weed presented in the petition include mining, livestock grazing, recreation, road maintenance, exotic plant invasion and control, conversion of habitat for cultivation, inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms, small population size, low reproductive rates, stochastic events, drought, and climate change. However, we lack information to validate these assertions.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Lands managed by the Coronado National Forest.

NOTES: None.