

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

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDAST3M510

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Erigeron arisolius* Nesom

COMMON NAME: Arid throne fleabane

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Asteraceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Nesom, G. L. 1990. Phytologia 69:243.

TYPE LOCALITY: Arizona: Cochise County: West side of Chiricahua Mts., near Turkey Creek Road.

TYPE SPECIMEN: TEX. G. L. Nesom 4521. 28 August 1981.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: *Erigeron* is a large genus with approximately 375 species. It is distributed worldwide (Nesom 1992). At present, approximately 30 species of *Erigeron* are known to occur in Arizona (Lehr 1978, Lehr and Pinkava 1980, Lehr and Pinkava 1982).

DESCRIPTION: “Annuals to short lived perennials from taproot. Stems 3-7 dm tall, single or multiple from the base, prominently yellow ribbed, coarsely hispid with thick based, spreading to slightly ascending, well spaced hairs mostly along the ribs, minutely stipitate glandular. Leaves hispid-strigose, ascending, often strictly so, linear or narrowly oblong to linear lanceolate or linear oblanceolate, entire or sometimes with 1-2 pairs of coarse rounded lobes, the basal and lower cauline 2.5 - 5.0 cm long, 2-5 mm wide, narrowed upwards. Heads hemispheric, 5-8 mm wide, erect in bud, in loose corymbs; phyllaries with a thick, raised, dark orange mid vein, abaxially and adaxially, hispid with stiffly spreading curved hairs, minutely glandular, narrowly lanceolate, nearly equal in length, 2.5 - 3.5 mm long. Ray flowers 125 - 180 in 2-3 series, the corollas white, less commonly light lavender or pinkish, 6-7 mm long, with ligules 0.6-1.0 mm wide, reflexing. Disc corollas 2.0-0.5 mm long, glabrous, swollen just above the tube. Achenes 0.7 - 1.0 mm long, sparsely strigose to glabrate, with 2 orange nerves; pappus of (10-)12-16 fragile bristles, with an outer series of separate setae or lanceolate scales 0.1-0.3 mm high. Chromosome number, n= 9 pairs” (Nesom 1990).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: *E. arisolius* is morphologically similar to *E. divergens* with the distinction being the erect buds and reflecting rays of *E. arisolius* in contrast to the nodding buds and straight rays of *E. divergens*. *E. arisolius* is also similar to *E. coronarius* in habit and morphological features. The ranges of these 2 species do not overlap. They are most easily distinguished from each other by features of the pappus. The pappus of *E. arisolius* has (10-)12-17 bristles, with an outer series of separate setae or narrowly lanceolate squamellae. The pappus of *E. coronarius* has (2-)4-8(-10) bristles with an outer, hyaline corona of broad, basally fused squamellae (Nesom 1990).

ILLUSTRATIONS: None

TOTAL RANGE: Arizona, southwestern New Mexico(?), and Sonora, Mexico.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Found in Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz counties.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Annual, or short-lived perennial, herbaceous forb.

PHENOLOGY: May - October (-November).

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: This species occurs in grasslands and areas of oak woodlands, in grassy openings or on roadsides. It often occurs in moist areas (Nesom 1990).

ELEVATION: Typically 4,265 - 5,650 ft (1,300 - 1,723 m). One collection from Sells Valley (Pima County), was taken at around 2,600 ft. from a floodwater field.

EXPOSURE: Various, but apparently always in open situations.

SUBSTRATE: Often in moist rocky soils within grasslands or grassy openings in woodland.

PLANT COMMUNITY: This species occurs in semi-desert grassland and madrean evergreen woodland communities, as defined by Brown (1994). Associated species at one site in the Huachuca Mountains included *Quercus emoryi*, *Quercus oblongifolia*, *Q. arizonica*, *Agave parryi*, *Arctostaphylos pungens*, *Bouteloua* spp., and *Eragrostis* sp. Associated species at one site north of Sonoita included *Chenopodium fremontii*, *Gnaphalium chilense*, *Lithospermum cobrense*, and *Acacia angustissima*. Other collections have been associated with *Prosopis* sp. and *Juniperus* sp.

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown. Specimen labels indicate that this species ranges from uncommon to abundant where it occurs.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None
STATE STATUS: None
OTHER STATUS: Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: This species favors moist areas in grasslands and grassy openings, which are favorite feeding areas for livestock.

CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN: This species was listed "Forest Service Sensitive" in 1999.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Monitor some of the known populations in Arizona to some extent. Search areas of suitable habitat for new populations of this species, especially in areas adjacent to known populations.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BIA - Tohono O'odham Nation; USFS - Coronado National Forest; State Land Department; Audubon Research Ranch; Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

LITERATURE CITATIONS:

- Brown, D. E. ed. 1994. Biotic communities: southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. University of Utah Press. Salt Lake City. 342 pp.
- Lehr, J. H. 1978. A Catalog of the Flora of Arizona. Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ. p. 169-170.
- Lehr, J. H. and D. J. Pinkava. 1980. A catalogue of the flora of Arizona, Supplement I. Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science 15:17-32.
- Lehr, J. H. and D. J. Pinkava. 1982. A catalogue of the flora of Arizona, Supplement II. Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science 17:19-26.
- Nesom, G. L. 1990. Taxonomy of the *Erigeron coronarius* group of *Erigeron* Sect. *Geniculactis* (*Asteraceae*:*Astereae*). Phytologia 69(4):237-253.

Nesom, G. L. 1992. *Phytologia* 72:157-208.

USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 1999-11-05 (RHB)
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