

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**Plant Abstract**

**Element Code:** PDEUP1D060

**Data Sensitivity:** No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Tragia laciniata* (Torr.) Muell. Arg.  
**COMMON NAME:** Sonoran noseburn, Sonoita noseburn  
**SYNONYMS:** *Tragia urticifolia* var. *laciniata* Torr.  
**FAMILY:** Euphorbiaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** *Tragia laciniata* (Torr.) Müll. Arg., *Linnaea* 34: 182. 1865. *Tragia urticifolia* var. *laciniata* Torr., Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary...Botany 5(2):200. 1858.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** USA: Arizona.\*

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** C. Wright 1795, 1851-1852. LT: MO-1907591, NY-70627.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** The genus *Tragia* comprises about 150 species of nettle-like plants, which are widely distributed. Only about 20 species have been recorded from North America; 15 according to USDA, NRCS (2004). Hybridization between species of noseburns, account for some of the difficulty in classification (Miller et al. 1967). Four species of *Tragia* are recognized by Lehr (1978) as occurring in Arizona.

**DESCRIPTION:** Slender perennial herb 15-35 cm (6-14 in) tall with few to several stems. Stems are moderately puberulent with minute, simple, crisped or incurved hairs and a few scattered, coarser, simple ones. Leaf blades palmately 3-foliolate, petioles 2-15 mm long. Lateral leaflets 4-25 mm long, laciniately toothed, each bearing a distinct exterior lobe at base. Central leaflet to 8 mm wide, 1-4 cm long, deeply laciniately toothed, dark gray-green and sparsely pubescent above, paler and with coarse white hairs along veins beneath. Inflorescence a raceme of 3-6 minute male flowers, and one female flower below the male. Staminate flowers with 3 stamens; filaments fleshy. Sepals lanceolate, acute. Capsules sparsely to densely hirsute; seeds globose, smooth, closely puberulent with reddish brown, short hairs.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** *Tragia laciniata* is vegetatively the most distinctive of the U. S. species; the three-parted leaves are quite unmistakable (Miller et al 1967).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Line drawing (Miller et al. 1967).

Color photo of Lectotype collection (MO-1907591, accessed 5/19/2004 in

<http://digitalis.mobot.org/mrsid/bin/mosid/mosid.pl>)

Color photo of Lectotype collection (NY-70627, accessed 5/19/2004 in [http://scisun.nybg.org:8890/searchdb/owa/wwwcatalog.detail\\_list?this\\_id=4428841](http://scisun.nybg.org:8890/searchdb/owa/wwwcatalog.detail_list?this_id=4428841))

Color photos (Accessed 5/19/2004 from <http://www.casasarroyo.org/flowers/plant.php?family=spurge&plant=Tragia%20laciniata>)

**TOTAL RANGE:** Southeastern Arizona and eastern Sonora to Chihuahua, Mexico, and perhaps into New Mexico.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** From the Huachuca Mountains in Cochise County; the Santa Rita Mountains in Pima County; and the Canelo Hills (O'Donnell Canyon), and Atascosa (Sycamore Canyon), Pajarito, Patagonia, and Santa Rita mountains in Santa Cruz County.

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

**GROWTH FORM:** Herbaceous perennial.

**PHENOLOGY:** April-May; August - September (October). May-October in Sonora.

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Open woodlands. Along streams and canyon bottoms, and on shaded hillsides. Shady understory in oak woodland and pine-oak forest in Sonora, Mexico.

**ELEVATION:** 3,500 feet to 5,680 feet (1050-1730 m); 3,280-6,557 feet (1000-2000 m) per NatureServe (2004).

**EXPOSURE:** South facing and North facing slope.

**SUBSTRATE:** Rocky, granitic soils; possibly also limestone, and coarse sand.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Oak and mixed-coniferous woodland. Associated plant species may include: *Acalypha lindheimeri* (= *A. phleoides*, shrubby copper-leaf), *Arctostaphylos pungens* (Mexican manzanita), *Artemisia* sp. (sage), *Bommeria hispida* (copper fern), *Bouteloua* sp. (grama), *Celtis reticulata* (= *C. laevigata* var. *reticulata*, netleaf hackberry), *Choisya arizonica* (= *C. dumosa* var. *arizonica*, Arizona Mexican-orange), *C. mollis* (= *C. dumosa* var. *mollis*, soft Mexican-orange), *Commelina dianthifolia* (birdbill day-flower), *Dyschoriste* sp., *Eryngium heterophyllum* (Wright's coyote-thistle), *Fraxinus* sp. (ash), *Geranium wislizenii* (Huachuca crane's-bill), *Gnaphalium chilense* (= *G. stramineum*, cotton-batting cudweed), *Houstonia wrightii* (Wright's bluet), *Juniperus deppeana* (alligator juniper), *Linum puberulum* (plains flax), *Mimosa dysocarpa* (velvetpod mimosa), *Muhlenbergia* sp. (muhly), *Pinus discolor* (border pinyon), *Platanus wrightii* (Wright

sycamore), *Prosopis velutina* (velvet mesquite), *Quercus arizonica* (Arizona oak), *Q. emoryi* (Emory's oak), *Q. oblongifolia* (Mexican blue oak), *Rhus choriophylla* (= *R. virens* var. *choriophylla*, evergreen sumac), and *Salix* sp. (willow).

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown.

## **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

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

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BLM – Tucson Field Office; USFS - Coronado National Forest; TNC – Canelo Hills Cienega; San Rafael Ranch Natural Area; Private.

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

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Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:****ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

\*Present day Arizona, Santa Cruz Co., on the Sonoita River.

**Revised:** 1999-12-01 (LBK)  
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