

**NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

*Cynanchum utahense* (Engelm.) Woodson (Asclepiadaceae) - Riverside County. Duncan S. Bell 273 (RSA, duplicates to be distributed) 19 April 2009. Palen/McCoy Wilderness Area, west side of the Arica Mountains. Collections taken from sandy wash at 34.010° N, 114.939° W, ca. 1280 ft. elev. Large population of *Cynanchum utahense* observed in main drainage wash on the west side of the mountain range over a linear distance of about 300 m. All plants in flower with approximately 30% of plants with both flowers and fruit. Growing with *Ambrosia dumosa*, *Androstephium breviflorum*, *Hesperocallis undulata*, *Larrea tridentata*, *Loeseliastrum matthewsii*, *Malacothrix glabrata*, *Oenothera deltoides*, *Psoralea argophylla*, *Rafinesquia neomexicana*, *Stephanomeria exigua*.

*Previous knowledge.* *Cynanchum utahense* occurs from southwestern Utah, through the Mojave Desert across southern Nevada, western Arizona, to the Sonoran and Mojave deserts in California (Munz 1974, Flora of Southern California, UC Press, Berkeley; Cronquist et al. 1984, Intermountain Flora Vol. IV, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY; McLaughlin 1993, Jour. Arizona-Nevada Acad. Sci. 27:169-187). Most collections of *Cynanchum utahense* in California have been from San Bernardino County; many of these are from the southwestern section of the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base. It is on CNPS List 4.2, that is, a plant of limited distribution (watch list), fairly endangered in California ([cnps.site.aplus.net/cgi-bin/inv/inventory.cgi](http://cnps.site.aplus.net/cgi-bin/inv/inventory.cgi), visited 1 Nov 2009). The Consortium of California Herbaria ([ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/](http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/), visited 1 Nov 2009) reports ten collections from San Diego County, mostly within the Anza-Borrego area, and only one collection from Imperial County, at Coyote Wells, south of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. It reports two collections from Riverside County, one of which has incorrect location data, and was actually collected in San Diego County (K. Brandegee, April 1899, San Felipe). The only reported *C. utahense* collection made within Riverside County is Theo Glenn's no. 91-84; May 8, 1991 (UCR) from the Sonoran Desert, Big Maria Mtns., north of Blythe. Except for Glenn's one specimen, there is a wide gap in *C. utahense*'s apparent distribution between western Arizona and all collections from other California counties.

*Significance.* This collection documents a large population (more than 500 individuals) from a broad geographic area where only one other specimen is reported. This occurrence suggests that there may be other *C. utahense* populations in unexplored or under-collected desert washes and canyons.

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Bell, Duncan. 2009. "Noteworthy Collections." *Crossosoma* 35(2), 96–96.

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