

Eriogonum corymbosum Bentham var. (unnamed) Reveal LAS VEGAS BUCKWHEAT

FAMILY: *Polygonaceae*, the buckwheat family. **SYNONYMS:** *E. c.* var. *glutinosum* (misapplied), *E. c.* var. *aureum* (misapplied). **OTHER COMMON NAME:** golden buckwheat.

STATUS: Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G5 T2T3 S2
USFWS/ESA: none. STATE OF NEVADA: recommended for full protection. BLM: Special Status Species in Nevada. USFS: none. NNPS: THREATENED.

POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA): 15 occurrences mapped at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, OR 29 occurrences mapped at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated individuals 5188+, total estimated area 420+ ha (1038+ ac).
TREND: DECLINING RAPIDLY.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA): Conversion of habitat for residential and urban development, off-road vehicle use, trash dumping, flood control, road and utility corridors, gypsum mining.

INVENTORY EFFORT (NEVADA): Surveys are ongoing and becoming relatively complete. Most recent entered survey 2004, average year of last survey 1999. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): 0-5 yrs: 13.8%; 6-10 yrs: 86.2%. **Earliest entered record:** 3 October 1997.

LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA) in decreasing predominance: private lands, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada state lands (?), U. S. Department of Defense (?).

RANGE: Clark County, Nevada; also in UT (?). Maximum Nevada range dimension 60.6 km (37.6 mi) excluding most disjunct record. **Type specimen** collected in Clark County.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA): 1900-3839 feet (579-1170 meters).

HABITAT (NEVADA): On and near gypsum soils, often forming low mounds or outcrops in washes and drainages, or in areas of generally low relief, often with *Arctomecon californica* and other gypsum-tolerant species, surrounded by *Ambrosia dumosa*, *Stanleya pinnata*, *Atriplex canescens*, *Ephedra torreyana*, *Larrea tridentata*, *Acacia greggii*, *Suaeda torreyana*, *Psoralea fremontii*, etc.

PHENOLOGY: flowering summer to fall, August to November. Range of most frequent survey months: September-November.

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: long-lived shrub.

DESCRIPTION AND IDENTIFICATION: Shrubs 0.3-1.2 m high, 0.4-2.3 m across, leaves and flowering branches with silvery tufts of cobwebby hairs, leaves oval, stalked, 1-4 cm long, flowers numerous in masses along upper branches, 6-parted, bright to pale yellow (rarely whitish), 2-3 mm long, seeds triangular, 2-2.5 mm long, light brown.

Distinguishing features: Distinguished from other yellow-flowered varieties by the sparse silvery tufts of cobwebby hairs on the flowering branches and upper leaf surfaces.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Niles *et al.* (1999); Nevada Natural Heritage Program images web page (1998-present) and files.

ILLUSTRATIONS: none known.

OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES (listed separately): Niles *et al.* (1997), Reveal (1985), Welsh *et al.* (1993).

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

Reveal, J. L. 2002. A review of *Eriogonum corymbosum* Benth with emphasis on the species in southern Nevada.

Montrose, CO: Spring Canyon Enterprises, prepared for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Las Vegas, NV. 39 pages.

OF FURTHER INTEREST: The flowers are visited by a wide variety of insects. Reveal's (2002) field study concluded that the Nevada populations are distinct from vars. *aureum* and *glutinosum*. Publication as a variety new to science (var. *nilesii*) is expected in December 2004. Molecular studies are underway at Utah State University to determine its genetic significance.
