

Why Observe?

Species marked for inclusion in the *Nature's Notebook* monitoring program have been identified by scientists or natural resource managers as ecologically important for the Sonoran Desert region. Many Sonoran Desert species have not been observed nor studied as closely as other species in the United States. They are the standard bearer of the Sonoran Desert Region.

Tips for Identification

This species has separate male and female flowers. If you know whether the flowers you are observing are male or female (or both), please make a comment about it for that observation.

Note that individuals of this species with only male flowers will not produce fruit.

Be aware there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your plant may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a "?" for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.



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Young leaves

One or more young, unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. A leaf is considered "young" and "unfolded" once its entire length has emerged from a breaking bud, stem node or growing stem tip, so that the leaf stalk (petiole) or leaf base is visible at its point of attachment to the stem, but before the leaf has reached full size or turned the darker green color or tougher texture of mature leaves on the plant. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.

Dionna Hatch.

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Flowers or flower buds

One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible on the plant. Include flower buds or inflorescences that are swelling or expanding, but do not include those that are tightly closed and not actively growing (dormant). Also do not include wilted or dried flowers.

Dionna Hatch.

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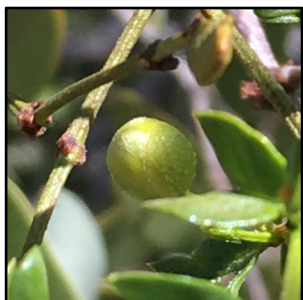


Open flowers

One or more open, fresh flowers are visible on the plant. Flowers are considered "open" when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible between or within unfolded or open flower parts (petals, floral tubes or sepals). Do not include wilted or dried flowers.

Dionna Hatch.

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Fruits

One or more fruits are visible on the plant. For *Simmondsia chinensis*, the fruit is a capsule that changes from green to light brown or red-brown and splits open to expose the seed, or drops from the plant before splitting. Do not include empty capsules that have already dropped their seeds.

Dionna Hatch.

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Ripe fruits

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. For *Simmondsia chinensis*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned light brown or red-brown and has split open to expose the seed, or when it readily drops from the plant when touched. Do not include empty capsules that have already dropped their seeds.

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Phenophases not pictured: Recent fruit or seed drop