

23. *Fouquieria splendens* (*Prosopis velutina*) / *Opuntia engelmannii* / Mixed Perennial Grass - *Agave schottii* Shrub Savanna Association (P)

Ocotillo (Velvet mesquite) / Cactus apple / Mixed Perennial Grass - Schott's century plant Shrub Savanna Association (P)

This community is characterized by an open (5–15% cover) canopy stratum (>2 m) dominated by ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) with velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*), a variable (5–20% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by cactus apple (*Opuntia engelmannii*), and a highly variable ([10] 20–50% cover) field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by perennial grasses and Schott's century plant (*Agave schottii*). Ocotillo (*F. splendens*) is consistently (1.0) present, with cover ranging from 2% to 10 [20]%, averaging of around 6%. Cactus apple (*O. engelmannii*) ranges from a sparse (1% cover) associate to, more commonly, a dominant with average cover of around 5% and dense inclusions approaching 20%. Other documented species include Thurber's cotton (*Gossypium thurberi*), staghorn cholla (*Cylindropuntia versicolor*), catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*), littleleaf false tamarind (*Lysiloma watsonii*), sangre de cristo (*Jatropha cardiophylla*), Tahitian kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*), yellow trumpetbush (*Tecoma stans*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), tanglehead (*Heteropogon contortus*), spidergrass (*Aristida ternipes*), bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*), cane bluestem (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*), and bullgrass (*Muhlenbergia emersleyi*).

Common species

- *Fouquieria splendens*
- *Prosopis velutina*
- *Opuntia engelmannii*
- *Ericameria laricifolia*
- *Agave schottii*

This community covers 3.5% (946 ha/2,337 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is widespread throughout the low slopes of Tanque Verde Ridge, Mica Mountain, and Rincon Peak. It is restricted to generally south to southwest-facing backslopes of varying grade from 1,196 to 1,340 meters (3,923–4,396 ft). The surface cover is characterized by shallow and well-drained, gravelly to skeletal loamy soils with scattered small rocks and occasional exposed bedrock. Some slopes, especially the steeper ones, may be dominated by loose rocks. Parent material is very diverse, with areas including mica schist, quartz monzonite, and gneissic granodiorite.



