

24. *Fouquieria splendens* / (*Opuntia engelmannii*) / *Selaginella rupincola* Sparse Rock Outcrop Association (P)

Ocotillo / (Cactus apple) / Rockloving spikemoss Sparse Rock Outcrop Association (P)

This community is characterized by a very sparse (<6% cover) canopy stratum (>2 m) dominated by ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), a sparse (<8% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) of cactus apple (*Opuntia engelmannii*), and a variable (14–35% cover) field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by rockloving spikemoss (*Selaginella rupincola*). Ocotillo (*F. splendens*) is consistently (1.0) present, with variable cover ranging from 3–8%, averaging around 6%. Cactus apple (*O. engelmannii*) is present as small, stunted individuals more or less limited to the vegetated islands scattered throughout the bedrock. Rockloving spikemoss (*S. rupincola*) accounts for around half of the total relative cover documented in this community, or around 10–30%. Other documented species include jumping cholla (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*), staghorn cholla (*Cylindropuntia versicolor*), turpentine bush (*Ericameria laricifolia*), common sotol (*Dasyilirion wheeleri*), Schott's century plant (*Agave schottii*), slender bouteloua (*Bouteloua repens*), and rose natal grass (*Melinis repens*).

Common species

- *Fouquieria splendens*
- *Opuntia engelmannii*
- *Selaginella rupincola*
- *Selaginella arizonica*

This community covers 0.5% (133 ha/328 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is distributed throughout the low-elevation regions of the park, especially on the southern slopes of Tanque Verde Ridge. It is typically restricted to south-trending expanses of exposed bedrock from 984 to 1,400 meters (3,228–4,593 ft). The surface cover is dominated (50+%) by vast expanses of exposed bedrock composed of gneissic quartz monzonite with scattered pockets of soil and gravel. Areas with noteworthy vegetation typically have moderate grades (<25%), but there are often vertical cliff bands within this community, usually when transitioning into a large drainage.



