

### 34. *Simmondsia chinensis* - Mixed Cacti / *Ambrosia deltoidea* Shrubland Association (P)

Jojoba - Mixed Cacti / Triangle bur ragweed Shrubland Association (P)

This community is characterized by a very open (<5% cover) canopy (>2 m) of yellow paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*), a subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*) and a mix of succulents, and a field stratum (<0.5 m) dominated by triangle bur ragweed (*Ambrosia deltoidea*). Vegetation differs slightly between landscape positions, with a more prolific mixed cacti component on the upper alluvial fans compared to the low, mountain slopes. Yellow paloverde (*P. microphylla*) is a consistent (1.0) canopy component, with cover ranging from scant inclusions (<1% cover) to areas of dominance (>5%). Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) and ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) are consistent (1.0) components of this community, with average cover of around 1%. Jojoba (*S. chinensis*) is a diagnostic component that presents as consistent and evenly spaced medium-sized shrubs with cover of 1–3%. Interspersed with this species is a variable mixture of pricklypear (*Opuntia* spp.) and cholla (*Cylindropuntia* spp.) that includes cactus apple (*Opuntia engelmannii*), tulip pricklypear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*), buckhorn cholla (*Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa*), chain-fruit cholla (*Opuntia fulgida*), and teddybear cholla (*Opuntia bigelovii*). Combined, these species contribute an average 5% cover, with some dense inclusions up to 15%. Triangle bur ragweed (*A. deltoidea*) is the most abundant and consistent (1.0) shrub in the field layer, with cover ranging from 2% to 5%.

#### Common species

- *Carnegiea gigantea*
- *Parkinsonia microphylla*
- *Fouquieria splendens*
- *Simmondsia chinensis*
- *Ambrosia deltoidea*

This community covers 9% (940 ha/2,323 ac) of the Tucson Mountain District, mainly on the hills to the northeast of Wasson Peak, as well as in scattered locations across the district's southwest and southeast areas. It spans both low-angle (<15%) alluvial fans and low slopes from 762 to 975 meters (2,500–3,200 ft). Gravel is often the primary ground cover in this community, most commonly made up of rhyolite tuff and megabreccia, with some areas composed of alluvium.





