

37. *Simmondsia chinensis* / *Hilaria belangeri* Shrub Savanna Association (P)

Jojoba / Curly mesquite Shrub Savanna Association (P)

This shrub savanna association is characterized by a moderately sparse (10–15% cover) subcanopy layer (0.5–2 m) dominated by jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*) and a moderately dense (20–30% cover) field layer (<0.5 m) dominated by curly mesquite (*Hilaria belangeri*). In the lower canopy (2–5 m), ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), yellow paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*), and velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) are low-cover (1–2% each) associates. The subcanopy stratum is defined by the consistent (1.0) dominance of jojoba (*S. chinensis*), with a suite of low-cover associates providing 1% cover. Jojoba typically provides 5–15% cover. From most to least frequent, the suite of associates includes cactus apple (*Opuntia engelmannii*), catclaw acacia (*Senegalia greggii*), Berlandier's wolfberry (*Lycium berlandieri*), and staghorn cholla (*Cylindropuntia versicolor*). The field stratum is characterized by the overwhelming dominance of curly mesquite (*H. belangeri*), which is the most-consistent (1.0) and highest-cover (20–30%) species in this community. A number of low shrubs may present as common associates, including brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), mariola (*Parthenium incanum*), and Wright's beebrush (*Aloysia wrightii*).

Common species

- *Simmondsia chinensis*
- *Hilaria belangeri*

This shrub savanna occupies only 0.005% (1.31 ha/3.23 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and is limited to a few small patches spread across the low hills northwest of Javelina Rocks. This community is exclusively present on low-angle (<10%) slopes around 950 meters (3,116 ft). The surface cover is characterized by very shallow and well-drained soils of gravelly loam.



