60. Mimosa aculeaticarpa Shrubland Association (P)

Catclaw mimosa Shrubland Association (P)

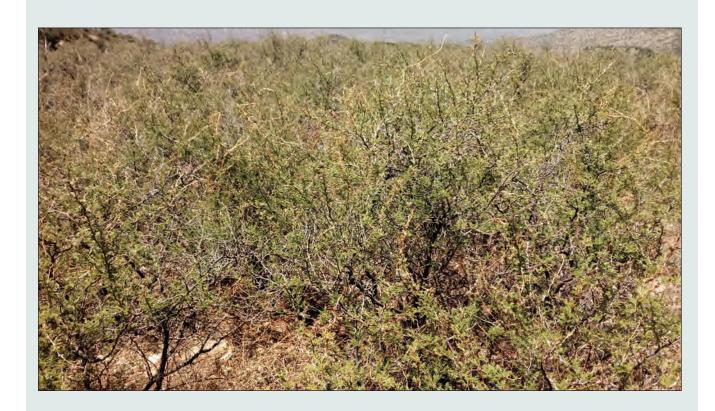
This shrubland community is characterized by a dense subcanopy stratum (0.5–2 m) solely dominated by a thicket of catclaw mimosa (*Mimosa aculeaticarpa*). This species provides the vast majority of cover, up to 40%. Individual catclaw mimosa shrubs range in size from 1 to 3 meters tall. Other documented subcanopy species include pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), yucca (*Yucca madrensis*), cactus apple (*Opun-*

Common species

Mimosa aculeaticarpa

tia engelmannii), and beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*). Historic fire disturbance was noted in all examples of this community, with numerous snags present as a result. Based on these snags, the pre-fire community was likely dominated by border pinyon (*Pinus discolor*), Arizona white oak (*Quercus arizonica*), and alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*). The canopy stratum is extremely sparse, with remnant trees providing a few percent cover (<5%). The field stratum is also sparse and typically composed of a low-cover (<10%) mix of perennial forbs, grasses, and succulents. Documented species in this layer include tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*), single threeawn (*Aristida schiedeana*), Schott's century plant (*Agave schottii*), and Lehmann lovegrass (*Eragrostis lehmanniana*).

This community covers 0.05% (14 ha/35 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District and was documented as small inclusions within greater oak savannas and pinyon-juniper woodlands, as well as in larger patches on the slopes above Grass Shack Campground. It typically occurs on south-trending and low-grade (<30%) mountain backslopes, shoulders, and summits from 1,767 to 1,859 meters (5,800–6,100 ft). The surface cover is characterized by shallow and well-drained skeletal loam underlying a variable mix of gravel, bare soil, and littler with patches of exposed bedrock slabs. The bedrock and rock are typically composed of gneissic quartz monzonite.



Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park

