

***Eriogonum lachnogynum* var. *sarahiae* (N.D. Atwood and A. Clifford) Reveal
Sarah's Buckwheat**

Family: Polygonaceae

Synonyms: *Eriogonum sarahiae* N.D. Atwood and A. Clifford

NESL Status: G4

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Caespitose mound-forming perennial herb to 10 cm tall. Leaves in a basal rosette with numerous persistent old leaf bases, leaves narrowly elliptic, densely lanate below, strigose and greenish above, blade 4-8 mm long, 1.5-4 mm wide, slightly revolute on the lower margins with a prominent midrib. Flowering stems up to 40, 1.5-5.5 cm high; inflorescence capitate, perianth yellow, flowers 5-12 per involucre; petals villous pubescent on outer surface; ovaries and seeds villous. Flowering May to July.

Similar species: *Eriogonum lachnogynum* differs from other perennial yellow-flowered wild buckwheats by its villous ovaries and seeds. Variety *lachnogynum* does not form mounds, has fewer flowers per involucre and usually has fewer and longer flowering stems with broader inflorescences than var. *sarahiae*. Variety *colobum* has very short inflorescences that usually do not exceed the leaves.

Habitat: Windswept mesa tops in pinion – juniper communities at 5900- 7500m. Endemic on the Owl Rock Member of the Chinle Fm. topped by Todilto Limestone.

Distribution: Apache Co., AZ and McKinley County, NM.

Navajo Nation Distribution: Only known from the vicinity of Red Valley, north of Red Lake.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: Chuska Mountains and between Lupton, Apache Co., AZ, and Prewitt, McKinley Co., NM. In pinion-juniper communities on appropriate substrates.

Survey Period: May through July.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less depending on size and nature of the project.

References:

- Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 2005. Vol. 5: Magnoliophyta: Caryophyllidae, part 2. Oxford University Press, New York. 656 pp..
- New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. New Mexico Rare Plants. Albuquerque, NM. New Mexico Rare Plants Homepage. <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu>
- Reveal J. 2004. *E. lachnogynum* var. *sarahiae*. Harvard Papers in Botany 9(1): 178.
- Welsh, S.L., N.D. Atwood, S. Goodrich, L.C. Higgins. 2003. A Utah Flora: Third Edition. Brigham Young University, Provo, UT.



Eriogonum lachnogynum var. *sarahiae*

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Eriogonum lachnogynum var. *sarahiae* habitat

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