

ARIZONA HEDGEHOG CACTUS
(*Echinocereus triglochidiatus* var. *arizonicus*)

STATUS: Endangered (44 FR 61556; October 15, 1979) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: Diploid, perfect-flowered species of southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and northern Mexico. It can generally be distinguished from other similar subspecies by its thicker stems and spines. The stems are longer than similar varieties. This cactus has a dark green cylindroid stem, 6.4-30.5 cm (2.5-12 in) tall and an average stem diameter of 8.1 cm (3.1 in), average number of ribs is 8.7, and the average number of central spines is 2.9. Spines are smooth. Stems occur singly or (usually) in clusters. There are 1-3 gray or pinkish spines, the largest deflexed, and 5-11 shorter radial spines. Flowers are brilliant red, are produced along the side of the stem, and appear in late April to mid-May.

HABITAT: Plants are found on dacite or granite bedrock, open slopes, in narrow cracks between boulders, and in the understory of shrubs in the ecotone between Madrean Evergreen Woodland and Interior Chaparral. Elevation ranges from about 1,130-1,585 m (3,200-5,200 ft).

RANGE: Current: In Gila, and Pinal counties in central Arizona. Exact locations are not provided because illegal collecting threatens the species.

Potential: Can be found wherever the habitat description is met.

REASONS FOR DECLINE / VULNERABILITY: The limited distribution of this plant increases its vulnerability to threats from mining, off-road vehicle use, illegal collecting, and road and utility construction.

LAND MANAGEMENT / OWNERSHIP: Tonto National Forest, possibly private.

NOTES: Protected from international trade by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law.