

## 55. [*Quercus chrysolepis* - *Quercus rugosa* - *Holodiscus dumosa*] Shrubland Association (P) [Canyon live oak - Netleaf oak - Rockspirea] Shrubland Association (P)

This shrubland community is characterized by a variably dense (20–40% cover) subcanopy (0.5–2 m) dominated by canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), shrubby netleaf oak (*Quercus rugosa*), and rockspirea (*Holodiscus dumosa*). The shrubby nature of this community is a result of its presence in exposed areas with shallow soils and/or fire history. The dominant subcanopy shrubs provide cover ranging from 5% to 10% each, with canyon live oak (*Q. chrysolepis*) typically contributing the highest cover. In general, these species are present as shrubs or stunted trees 1–2 meters tall, but taller examples may be scattered throughout the community. Vegetation cover within this stratum is highly dependent on available soils. Areas with high exposed bedrock tend to have the lowest vegetation cover. Other documented species include New Mexico locust (*Robinia neomexicana*), mock orange (*Philadelphus* sp.), common hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*), and border pinyon (*Pinus discolor*). The very sparse (<<5%) field stratum (<0.5 m) contains no consistent dominants or common associates. Documented species include mountain snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), cliff muhly (*Muhlenbergia polycaulis*), New Mexico fleabane (*Erigeron neomexicana*), and kingcup cactus (*Echinocereus triglochidiatus*).

### Common species

- *Quercus chrysolepis*
- *Quercus rugosa*
- *Holodiscus dumosa*

This community is contained within a two-association map class that covers 1.18% (322 ha/795 ac) of the Rincon Mountain District. This shrubland is typically found on mountain backslopes and shoulders of variable grade (10–50+%) above 2,600 meters (8,200 ft). The surface cover is characterized by the consistent presence and typical dominance of exposed bedrock and/or boulders underlying a shallow soil layer. The parent material is a mix of quartz monzonite and mica schist.



Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park

