

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 (*Opuntia 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 dracuncululus*), 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 back-slopes, 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.

Common species

- *Mimosa aculeaticarpa*



Rincon Mountain District, Saguaro National Park

