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RANGE EXTENSION OF HELIANTHUS SPP. (ASTERACEAE) IN ARIZONA AND UTAH

Gerald J. Seiler and Luka Cuk

Abstract.—Two populations of Helianthus niveus (Benth.) Brandegee ssp. canescens (A. Gray) Heiser were discovered in northern Arizona extending the range 300 miles north for this species. Helianthus deserticola Heiser range was extended 100 miles east in both Arizona and Utah.

Recent explorations for Helianthus species for a germplasm resource collection during the summer of 1980 led to several new distribution records. Range extensions were discovered for Helianthus niveus (Benth.) Brandegee ssp. canescens, (A. Gray) Heiser and H. deserticola Heiser.

Helianthus niveus ssp. canescens was listed as occurring in southern Arizona (Kearney and Peebles 1960). McDougall (1973) did not list this species as occurring in northern Arizona. During our explorations we located two populations in northern Arizona, one in a sandy roadside ditch 4 miles northeast of Mexican Water, Apache Co., 29 Sept. 1980, Seiler and Cuk 1496, and the other in sandy soil 21.5 miles northeast of Kayenta, Apache Co., 29 Sept. 1980, Seiler and Cuk 1498. Both populations were small and scattered, and plants were shorter than usual. These collections represent a northern extension of about 300 miles in Arizona.

Heiser et al. (1969) listed the distribution of H. deserticola as southwestern Utah, southeastern and west central Nevada, and the extreme northwestern corner of Arizona. Welsh et al. (1973) and Welsh (1978) listed H. deserticola as a candidate threatened species, being restricted to sand dunes in Washington Co., Utah. McDougall (1973) did not list this species as occurring in northern Arizona. We found a very large population extending for several miles on both sides of the highway and extending into adjacent fields in sandy soil beginning 7.5 miles northwest of Page, Coconino Co., Arizona, 28 Sept. 1980, Seiler and Cuk 1485. This collection represents an eastern extension of 100 miles for this species in Arizona. One other large population of H. deserticola was found in sandy soil in southwestern Utah, 2 miles west of Glen Canyon, Kane Co., 28 Sept. 1980, Seiler and Cuk 1484. This collection represents an eastern extension of 100 miles for this species in Utah.

Specimens cited are deposited at the herbarium of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Conservation and Production Research Laboratory, Bushland, Texas.

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Literature Cited


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