Desert Biscuitroot

Lomatium foeniculaceum (Nutt.) Coult. & Rose

Apiaceae family

Native to United States

Uses: Important forb for Sage Grouse habitat. The seeds are a food source for chicks and the flowers attract insects for chicks. The root can be used as cereal flour and the leaves are edible as well.

Environmental Conditions: Occurs at mid to high elevation (1700-3350m). Grows in dry ecosystems in well drained, rocky soils and sunny, open flats. In grows well in hot dry summers and cold winters.



Life History: Perennial herb

Active Growth: Plant emerges in early spring (April), produces seed in May-June, and senesces back underground to a large taproot. The large taproot helps to compete for water once the plant is established for 3-4 years.

Characteristics:

Inflorescence: Single umbel per stem. Umbellets are pilose and contain up to 15 flowers.

Flowers: Flowering occurs in April-early June. 5 petals, yellow, glabrous, 5 stamens, filaments yellowish, anthers yellow.

Seed: 4mm long, 2.5 mm wide, ellipsoid, pubescent, 2 seeds per fruit body. Seed production occurs in May and June.



Stems: Flowering stem can be 25 cm tall. Single or multiple stems emerge from the base. Leaves emerge from base of plant.

Leaves: Alternate, 3-4 times pinnately divided. Primary division is opposite, others are alternate. Petioles are often purplish at the base and sheath the stem. Leaf around 20 cm long, 10-15 cm wide, and pilose.

Roots: Thick bulbous taproot.



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Sulphur-Flower Buckwheat

Eriogonum umbellatum Torr.

Polygonaceae Family

Native to United States

Uses: Important food source for birds and small mammals, especially sage grouse. Flowers attract insects which are a vital food source for

sage grouse chicks. It can be used for erosion control, bee honey production, and was commonly used as an herbal remedy by Native Americans for various ailments.



Environmental Conditions: Occurs on dry, open and often rocky slopes. It occurs at elevations ranging from 2500- 10000 feet. It requires well drained soils with low fertility. Requires more water during establishment, but it drought tolerant once established.

Life History: Low growing woody perennial

Active Growth: Spring and summer. Bloom occurs in early summer.

Characteristics:

Flowers: Color ranges from yellow to orange or reddish. Flower stems can be 3-16 inches tall. Flowers occur in dense umbels.

Fruit: Smooth, brown-black seeds that are 0.08-0.2 inches in diameter.



Stem: The plant can form low, broad mats. Usually grow to be 8-12 inches high and up to 2 feet in diameter.

Leaves: Usually 1 inch long, elliptical, shiny green on top, and woolly underneath.

Roots: Deep taproot.



USDA-NRCS. 2019. Plant Profile: *Eriogonum umbellatum* Torr.- sulphur-flower buckwheat. United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service. Accessed January 14th 2019. https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=ERUM

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