



Eriogonum sphaerocephalum var. *sphaerocephalum*- Elko County
Photo by J.D. Johnson

***PICRADENIOPSIS OPPOSITIFOLIA:* ANOTHER WEED FINDS ITS WAY TO NEVADA**

Story by Arnold Tiehm

Photos by Stephen Andersen (CC-BY-NC) on iNaturalist.org

This past summer I received an email from Jim Morefield, botanist at the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage. In it he forwarded a link to an photograph of a plant on iNaturalist ([inaturalist.org/observations/84020669](https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/84020669) by Stephen Andersen). The image was taken along a railroad right-of-way northeast of Ely, Nevada. Jim was unable to identify the plant and asked for my opinion. I also was unable to identify it and noted that it looked like it could be related to *Chaenactis* (*Asteraceae*). I requested that Jim ask Stephen to collect a specimen. I noted the coordinates from the iNaturalist post hoping to visit the plant in person as I had plans to be in Ely later in July.



Unfortunately, my trip was cancelled and I forgot about the mystery plant.

In September, Greg Gust, botanist at the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, dropped off some specimens for the RENO herbarium and mentioned that they included two collected by Stephen. His first specimen was *Orogenia linearifolia* (Apiaceae) from near Ely. This was my first record of this plant from White Pine County. It was previously known in Nevada only in Elko and Eureka counties.

The second specimen was the unknown *Chaenactis* relative from the iNaturalist photo. I tried to key it using Intermountain Flora Volume 5 and got to tribe *Heliantheae*, subtribe *Baeriinae*. Within this subtribe I was unable to find a matching taxon. I then tried Flora of North America (FNA) and got to tribe *Heliantheae* subtribe *Chaenactidinae*. In the description of subtribe *Chaenactidinae* I found subtribe *Baeriinae* listed as a synonym. Despite the different names, I had reached the same place in both floras. Using the FNA subtribe key I reached *Picradeniopsis* and then ultimately settled on *P. oppositifolia*. The map showed it as occurring in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming. The reason I was unable to identify it using Intermountain Flora was that the plant does not occur within its geographical range. The habitat in FNA is listed as “roadsides, saline flats, shale sites.” Its occurrence in Nevada is from a railroad right-of-way which is essentially a “roadside.” This means we have added another weed to the Flora of Nevada. It will be interesting to see if it persists and spreads to other areas.

REFERENCES

S. Andersen 2, RENO 109500, 22 June 2021



SOCIETY NEWS

UPCOMING ZOOM MEETINGS

Meetings begin with an open chat period at 6:30 pm. The business meeting opens at 7:00 pm and the program commonly begins around 7:15 pm. Prior registration is required to join the Zoom meeting. See the events section of our Facebook page for registration links:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/NevadaNativePlantSociety/events/>

February 9 - Lesley DeFalco: Restoration of Joshua Tree

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The society newsletter editor position is now vacant. If you wish to assist with producing our newsletters, please contact one of the society officers listed here:

nvnps.org/members



Eriogonum shockleyi - Eureka County
Photo by J.D. Johnson



Eriogonum douglasii var. *meridionale* - Washoe County
Photo by J.D. Johnson

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