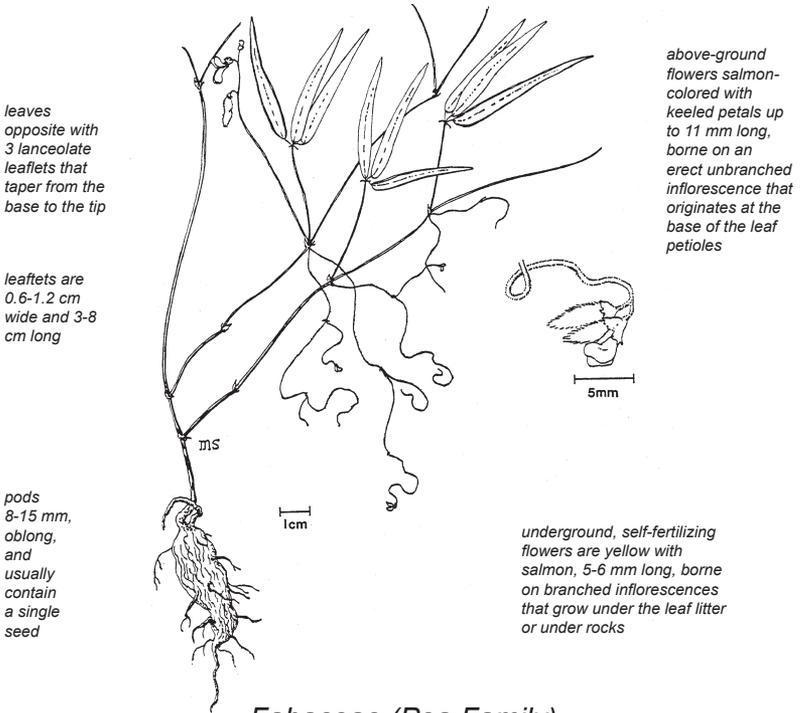


Perennial herb with prostrate creeping stems arising from an elliptical tuber, 3-14 cm long



Phenology: flowering/fruitlet after onset of summer rains in July, continuing into early October depending on moisture. Plants will lose leaves during periods of drought or low rainfall during the growing season.

Management Responsibility: USFS (Coronado NF).

Synonym: *Phaseolus supinus* Wiggins & Rollins

Similar Species: *Macroptilium atropurpureum* has purple flowers, *M. gibbosifolium* has lobed leaflets and salmon-colored flowers that turn purple with drying, while *P. ritensis* has broadly ovate leaflets and rose-purple flowers. *M. supinum* is the only *Macroptilium/Phaseolus* in the area with subterranean inflorescences and unlobed, narrow lanceolate leaflets.

Notes: USFS monitored one population in the Atascosa Mountains from 1989 to 1993. A 43% decline in numbers was observed over this period apparently due to low reproductive output and poor recruitment; reasons for this are unknown. Under magnification, *Phaseolus* has uncinata hairs (hooked at tip) and *Macroptilium* does not.

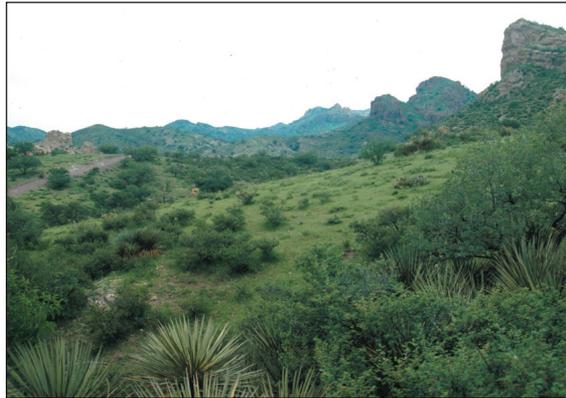
References: AGFD, 1998v. Falk and Warren, 1994. Gori et al, 1990. Anales Inst. Biol. Univ. Nac. Auton., Mexico, Bot. 66:189 1995.

Macroptilium supinum

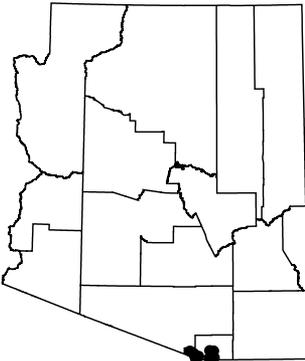


Sue Rutman/FWS

Habitat: ridge tops and gentle slopes of rolling hills in semi-desert grassland or grassy openings in oak-juniper woodland; growing in sandy loam, 3,600 to 4,900 ft (1100-1500 m) elevation.



Peter Warren/TNC



Range: Atascosa-Pajarito Mountains, San Luis Mountains, Patagonia Mountains, and the southern portion of the Santa Cruz River drainage; also south into Sonora and Nayarit, Mexico.