



KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

growth Deep rooted, rhizomatous, perennial shrub. Will give rise to aerial shoots up to 25 ft from parent plant. Grows 1.5-4 ft tall

flower Pea-like flowers are small, 3/8 inch, purple to maroon; borne on spine tipped branches from leaf axis.

stems Grayish green, spine-tipped, hairless, with simple, entire & alternate leaves.

leaves Leaves are oval to lance shaped.

fruit The reddish brown fruits are constricted between the seeds with a short narrow beak at the end.

note In and around Winslow & Holbrook, camelthorn is used extensively as a honey plant; management in these areas should consider the economic impacts.

Pea-like flowers.



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Elevation:
100- 5000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Dunes, desertlands, riparian, woodlands & forests.

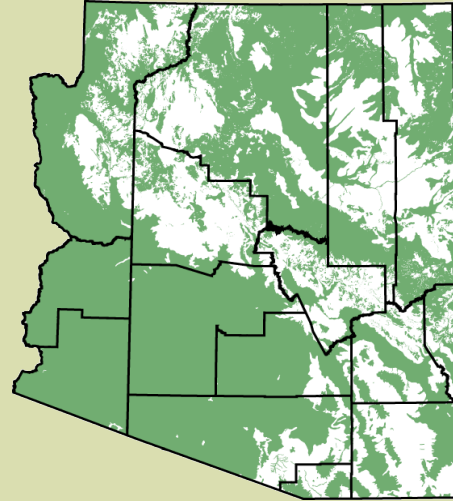
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Weedy in rangeland, preferring deep moist soil but also occurs in dry rocky or saline soils.

Abundant along riversides, irrigation ditches, canals and sometimes makes its way into cultivated fields. Establishment is generally in these disturbed areas that also receive a moderate amount of moisture.

Occurs in Navajo, Coconino, Gila, Maricopa and Yuma counties. Camelthorn has been shown to be a severe rangeland pest in other areas of the United States (El Paso County, Texas).

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.



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