

Shrublands

S-CHAP *Acacia rigidula* Shrubland Chaparro-Prieto Shrubland

Associations and Alliances

Chaparro - Prieto Shrubland

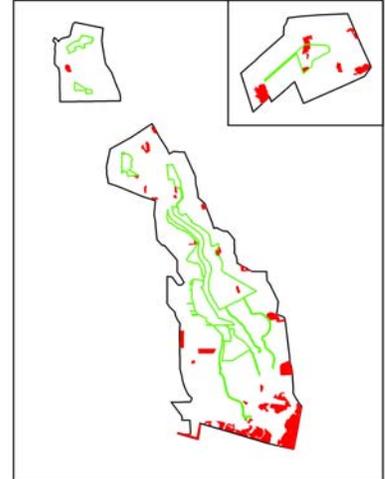
Common Species

Acacia rigidula
Celtis laevigata
Celtis pallida
Colubrina texensis
Condalia hookeri
Diospyros texana
Eysenhardtia texana
Guajacum angustifolium
Mahonia trifoliolata
Opuntia leptocaulis
Prosopis glandulosa
Sideroxylon lanuginosum
Yucca constricta
Aristida purpurea
Nassella leucotricha

Description

This map class occurs on sloping convex uplands bordering the valley along the San Antonio River at the Rancho unit and a few scattered locations in the environs surrounding the Missions unit. This type occurred on similar habitat as the Huisache – (Honey Mesquite) Woodland and Honey Mesquite - Granjeno / Prickly-pear – South Texas Ericameria Woodland types and contained many of the same species. This type had 2-3 meter-tall shrubs and a sparse to open canopy of 30-60%. Trees were usually absent but a few did occur in ravines and small valleys. The composition is dominated by a nearly equal mix of *Acacia rigidula*, *Diospyros texana*, *Condalia hookeri*, and *Prosopis glandulosa*. Other commonly associated shrubs include *Celtis pallida*, *Colubrina texensis*, *Eysenhardtia texana*, *Guajacum angustifolium*, *Mahonia trifoliolata*, *Opuntia leptocaulis*, *Ptelea trifoliata*, *Yucca constricta*, and scattered saplings of *Celtis laevigata* and *Sideroxylon lanuginosum*. The herbaceous layer was dominated by *Aristida purpurea* and *Nassella leucotricha*. On the color infrared imagery this type was very similar to the other mesquite map classes having dark red shrubs against a gray background, although their shorter stature was distinctive.

Range and Distribution



Representative Ground Photo



Photo Signature Example

CEGL003874 *Acacia rigidula* Shrubland

Translated Name: Chaparro-Prieto Shrubland

Common Name: Chaparro-Prieto Shrubland

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

The environmental factors that influence the composition and structure of this community are: climate, topography, soils, and water availability. This community occurs on sloping convex uplands bordering the valley along the San Antonio River. Caliche, which outcrops here and there, underlies these uplands and is overlain by well-drained sandy to clayey loams. Some areas are eroded into gully-like ravines, where a phase of this vegetation class occurs in the upper slopes and courses of these ravines. There is a small limestone quarry at the site, in which this vegetation occurs more sparsely than in undisturbed neighboring sites. Otherwise, it is not known to what degree human activity has affected this vegetation class.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

The canopy is about 2-3 m high, providing 30-60% cover. Trees are not characteristic of this class except in the ravine phase, where scattered ones to 10 m high can provide about 20% cover. However, in the ravine phase, the shrub layer is clearly dominant with a cover of about 60%. The vegetation is dominated by a nearly equal mix of *Acacia rigidula*, *Diospyros texana*, *Condalia hookeri*, and *Prosopis glandulosa*. Other commonly associated shrubs include *Celtis pallida*, *Colubrina texensis*, *Eysenhardtia texana*, *Guajacum angustifolium*, *Mahonia trifoliolata* (= *Berberis trifoliolata*), *Opuntia leptocaulis* (not observed in sampled plots), *Ptelea trifoliata*, *Yucca constricta*, and scattered saplings of *Celtis laevigata* and *Sideroxylon lanuginosum*. The ground layer provides about 60-70% cover, except in the ravines where it is very sparse (apparently due to flash flooding). It is dominated by the native grasses *Aristida purpurea* and *Nassella leucotricha*. Except for the showy forb, *Wedelia texana*, and the sedge, *Carex planostachys*, other associated herbs are present in low frequency. However, in the ravines the arid-land fern, *Pellaea atropurpurea* is common.

FLORISTIC COMPOSITION

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Lifeform</u>
<i>Acacia rigidula</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Broad-leaved deciduous tree
<i>Celtis pallida</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Colubrina texensis</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Condalia hookeri</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Diospyros texana</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Evergreen sclerophyllous shrub
<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Evergreen sclerophyllous shrub
<i>Guajacum angustifolium</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Evergreen sclerophyllous shrub
<i>Mahonia trifoliolata</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Evergreen sclerophyllous shrub
<i>Opuntia leptocaulis</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn shrub
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Thorn tree
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Broad-leaved deciduous shrub
<i>Sideroxylon lanuginosum</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Broad-leaved deciduous tree
<i>Yucca constricta</i>	Shrub/sapling (tall & short)	Other shrub
<i>Wedelia texana</i>	Herb (field)	Graminoid
<i>Aristida purpurea</i>	Herb (field)	Graminoid
<i>Carex planostachys</i>	Herb (field)	Graminoid
<i>Nassella leucotricha</i>	Herb (field)	Graminoid

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>GRank</u>	<u>Animal</u>	<u>Note (specify Rare (geog area), Invasive, Animal, or Other)</u>

CLASSIFICATION & OTHER COMMENTS

Classification Comments:

Other Comments:

ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION

This vegetation class occurs only at the Rancho Unit and is distributed in the western half of the unit downslope from the level *Prosopis glandulosa* var. *glandulosa* - *Celtis pallida* / *Opuntia* spp. - *Xylothamia palmeri* Woodland and upslope from the *Ulmus crassifolia* – *Celtis laevigata* / *Ilex decidua* / *Elymus virginicus* Forest and *Quercus virginiana* Temporarily Flooded Forest

ELEMENT SOURCES

Inventory Notes:

Plots: SAAN.23, SAAN.26, SAAN.31

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