

Canotia holocantha / Aristida purpurea Shrubland

COMMON NAME	Canotia/Purple three-awned needlegrass Shrubland
SYNONYM	None
TNC SYSTEM	Terrestrial
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Evergreen shrubland
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Extremely xeromorphic shrubland
FORMATION	Extremely xeromorphic evergreen subdesert shrubland
ALLIANCE	<i>Canotia holocantha</i> Shrubland Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE

Undescribed type and distribution unknown.

Tuzigoot National Monument

The *Canotia holocantha/Aristida purpurea* association appears on mesa tops and slopes with outcrops that surround the Monument.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Tuzigoot National Monument

The *Canotia holocantha/Aristida purpurea* association is located on very steep, rapidly-drained, shallow, sandy loam slopes with limestone outcrops.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Not applicable

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument

Strata

Shrub

Species

Canotia holocantha, *Ephedra viridis*, *Eurotia lanata*, *Ziziphus obtusifolia*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Canotia holocantha*, *Mahonia trifoliata*, *Krameria parvifolia*

Herbaceous

Aristida purpurea, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Baileya multiradiata*, *Euphorbia* spp., *Dyssodia neomexicana*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES

Globally

Information not available.

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Tuzigoot National Monument

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Canotia holocantha >5% cover, *Aristida purpurea* >1% cover

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Information is not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument

The *Canotia holocantha*/*Aristida purpurea* association is generally associated with very steep slopes. It is an open shrubland with total shrub cover less than 25%. *Canotia holocantha* dominates the shrub layer both in cover and in height. Two variants of the *Canotia holocantha*/*Aristida purpurea* association are seen on the Monument: a *Canotia holocantha*—*Mahonia trifoliata* and a *Canotia holocantha*—*Ephedra viridis* community. The herbaceous layer of this community is very open and depauperate. Plot data yield only five herbaceous species with total cover <10%. *Aristida purpurea* and *Bouteloua curtipendula* are common grasses, which indicate an affinity of this community for semi-desert grasslands.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES None

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION Not applicable

COMMENTS

This association may be a developmental stage or disturbance variant of the *Juniperus erythrocarpa*—*Canotia holocantha* association.

On the adjacent mesa tops at the Monument, this association is bordered by the *Larrea tridentata*/*Aristida purpurea* association. The surrounding slopes are occupied by the *Juniperus erythrocarpa*/*Canotia holocantha* association.

REFERENCES None