



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Curl-leaf mountain mahogany, Mountain mahogany

Scientific Name: *Cercocarpus ledifolius*

Plant Family: Rosaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: The plant can grow to 3.7 to 11 meters (12 to 36 feet) tall.

Leaves: Evergreen, alternate, simple, and persistent. Commonly clustered on spur shoots. Small (1 to 3 cm, or 0.5 to 1 in long) and narrowly elliptical, thick and leathery with entire, rolled edges, green above and below.

Flowers: Small, inconspicuous, trumpet-shaped, fuzzy.

Bark: Reddish to grayish brown with deep, wide furrows and ridges that may break into plate-like scales.

Habitat: High altitude desert areas; dry, rocky slopes; 1200 to 3050 m (4000 to 10,000 ft).

Bloom time: Early spring

Information sources:

Wildflowercenter (wildflower.utexas.edu/plants)

College of natural resources (www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/dendrology)

Ibiblio (www.ibiblio.org/)

Did you know? The wood of curl-leaf mountain mahogany is extremely hard and so dense that it won't float in water. It makes an excellent fuel, giving off an intense heat while burning for a long time. It is occasionally used in the manufacture of small articles for domestic and industrial use.



Photograph courtesy of Virginia Tech Forestry Department @ Virginia Tech Dendrology Database



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Phenological observation:
First Flower

Distribution Area:

