

**THE VASCULAR FLORA AND BRYOPHYTES OF THE GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS
NATIONAL MONUMENT, CATRON CO., NM: SPECIMEN CURATION.**

A Summary Report to NPSNM from W.R. Norris

The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (GCDNM) in Catron Co., NM is the focus of an ongoing inventory of vascular plants and bryophytes, conducted by the principal investigator and three other botanists (Drs. Richard Felger, Kelly Kindscher and Russ Kleinman). Our goal is to thoroughly document the monument flora through plant inventory work extending through the 2015 growing season. Initial field work for this project began in March 2013, and continued through fall 2014. To date, the four of us have collected approximately 600 vascular plant specimens at GCDNM, representing more than 400 taxa (including more than 150 not previously documented from the monument). One more season (2015) of field work is planned, and then we will write up a paper for publication based on plant inventory work conducted over three field seasons (2013-2015).

The New Mexico Native Plant Society graciously funded my 2013 proposal “The Vascular Flora and Bryophytes of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, Catron Co., NM: Specimen Curation” for \$954.70. These funds have been used to help offset costs of processing the above plant specimens collected at GCDNM during the 2013 and 2014 field seasons for ultimate accession into the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium (SNM) at Western New Mexico University. These costs have included materials (mounting paper, fragment packets, archival glue) and salary to hire staff to mount plants and enter specimen label data into our herbarium database. Ultimately these data will be made available to botanical researchers via the SEINet website

<http://swbiodiversity.org/portal/index.php>).

Thanks again to NPSNM for their generous financial support of this project!