

# "Extinct" Wire-Lettuce, *Stephanomeria schottii* (Compositae), Rediscovered in Arizona after More Than One Hundred Years

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*Stephanomeria schottii* (Gray in Torrey) Gray, commonly called Wire-lettuce, was previously known only from the original collection (type: A. Schott 58, Camp Miller, "Valley of the Gila," May, 1855. Mexican Boundary Survey). Arthur Schott was a surveyor or assistant to Lieutenant N. Michler, working from San Diego eastward to join westward bound Major W. H. Emory. The U. S. Government had commissioned Emory to survey the boundary between the United States and Mexico. The field work was completed in the fall of 1855. Asa Gray originally described the plant as *Hemiptilium schottii* in the official report on the botany of the boundary (Torrey, 1858. p. 105) and subsequently transferred it to the genus *Stephanomeria* in his two volume work on the botany of California (Gray, 1876. p. 427.) The suggestion was made that the plant might someday be found in California but this never occurred.

Listed as an Arizona endangered species in the Federal Register (Threatened or Endangered Fauna or Flora—Part V, 40(127): 27827. 1975), *Stephanomeria schottii* was assumed extinct until the present rediscovery on the Cabeza Prieta Game Range, Yuma County, Arizona, apparently some distance from the original collection. On 10 April 1978, I, along with Tim Reeves, found it growing in sand with sand-verbena and evening primroses. The plants were leafy and in bud. A month later, when it was again collected from the same area, the annual associates were gone and the only obvious companion plant was Yellow Trumpet, *Eriogonum trichopes* Torr. By this time the Wire-lettuce plants had lost all their leaves. Only white, naked stems topped with greenish bracts surrounding the flowers remained. This species of *Stephanomeria* has cream-colored, nocturnal flowers whereas all others in Arizona have pink or pinkish-tan, diurnal flowers.

## Literature Cited

- Gray, Asa. 1876. *Botany of California*. John Wilson and Son, University Press. Cambridge. Vol. I. 628 pp.
- Torrey, John. 1858. Botany of the Boundary. In W. H. Emory, *Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey* 2(1): 27-270. 61 pl.