

Distinguishing Characteristics of Similar Species

FAM	Name	Distinguishing Characteristics
PTE	Cheilanthes covillei	leaf margin recurved; leaf surface beady on top, scaly on bottom
PTE	Cheilanthes parryi	leaf margin recurved; leaf grayish on top, woolly on bottom
PTE	Cheilanthes viscida	leaf margin recurved; leaf sticky on top
PTE	Notholaena californica	leaf margin recurved; leaf bottom with white exudate
PTE	Pentagramma triangularis ssp. maxonii	leaf margin flat; leaf bottom with white exudate; leaf top with yellow stalked glands
PTE	Pentagramma triangularis ssp. triangularis	leaf margin flat; leaf bottom with yellow exudate; leaf top glabrous
SEL	Selaginella eremophila	distinguished from moss by presence of roots
EPH	Ephedra aspera	2 leaves / node; seed 1 / cone, surface smooth
EPH	Ephedra californica	3 leaves / node, twigs not spiny
EPH	Ephedra fasciculata var. clokeyi	2 leaves / node; seed 1 / cone, surface furrowed
EPH	Ephedra nevadensis	2 leaves / node; seeds 2 / cone; cone stalked 1-5 mm
EPH	Ephedra trifurca	3 leaves / node, twigs spiny
EPH	Ephedra viridis	2 leaves / node; seeds 2 / cone; cone sessile or stalked 1-5 mm
ACA	Carlowrightia arizonica	Similar to Ditaxis lanceolata in gestalt, but leaves opposite
ASC	Asclepias albicans	few-stemmed; 6-12 feet high; lvs 2-3 / node; hoods < anther head
ASC	Asclepias subulata	many-stemmed; 3-6 feet high; lvs 2 / node; hoods >> anther head
ASC	Matelea parvifolia	filament column appendages fused into low structure around anther head
ASC	Sarcostemma cynanchoides ssp. hartwegii	pl sparsely hairy; corolla gen purple; filament column appendages free from ring of tissues at corolla base
ASC	Sarcostemma hirtellum	pl densely hairy; corolla gen greenish white; filament column appendages fused to ring of tissues at corolla base

AST	<i>Adenophyllum porophylloides</i>	somewhat similar to <i>Porophyllum gracile</i> , but lobed leaves with glands and often with sharp teeth
AST	<i>Baccharis sergiloides</i>	Similar to <i>B. sarothroides</i> , but pistillate pappus very short, 1-3 mm in fr; and larger lvs obovate. <i>B. sarothroides</i> has pappus 7-11 mm, and larger lvs linear
AST	<i>Baileya multiradiata</i> var. <i>multiradiata</i>	rays 15-many, bright yellow; invol 10+ mm diam; heads 1; ligules 10-20 mm, widely linear or oblong, prominently 3-lobed; peduncles gen 10-20+ cm, ~scape-like
AST	<i>Baileya pauciradiata</i>	rays 4-8, pale yellow; invol gen 4-6 mm diam; heads 2-3
AST	<i>Baileya pleniradiata</i>	rays 15-many, bright yellow; invol 10+ mm diam; heads 1; ligules 6-10 mm, widely elliptic to obovate, shallowly 3-lobed to truncate; peduncles gen 3-10 cm, gen leafy-bracted
AST	<i>Brickellia arguta</i> var. <i>arguta</i>	lvs sharply toothed
AST	<i>Brickellia desertorum</i>	pl 8-15 dm; lvs ovate; heads 8-12 fl'd, 8-10 mm; minutely tomentose
AST	<i>Brickellia frutescens</i>	pl 3-6 dm; lvs oblong to spoon-shaped; heads 20-30 fl'd, 13-15 mm, gen 1(3), terminal
AST	<i>Calycoseris parryi</i>	ligules yellow; tack-shaped glands dark-colored
AST	<i>Calycoseris wrightii</i>	ligules white; tack-shaped glands pale
AST	<i>Chaenactis artemisiifolia</i>	lower sts and lvs whitish granular-puberulent; largest lf blades (2)3-4 pinnately lobed, longest lobe near base; tips of longest phyllaries sharp but not acuminate, ~flat, green; lf tips flat; pappus 0
AST	<i>Chaenactis carphoclinia</i> var. <i>carphoclinia</i>	corolla white; tips of longest phyllaries acuminate, needle-like, cylindric, gen reddish; largest lf blades (2)3-4 pinnately lobed, longest lobe near base, bases of petioles not strongly enlarged; lvs basal and cauline, < 7 cm; bases of petioles not strongly enlarged
AST	<i>Chaenactis carphoclinia</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>	corolla white; tips of longest phyllaries acuminate, needle-like, cylindric, gen reddish; largest lf blades (2)3-4 pinnately lobed, longest lobe near base, bases of petioles not strongly enlarged; lvs gen basal, longest 7-10 cm; bases of petioles strongly enlarged; RARE, east base of SnRsMtns
AST	<i>Chaenactis fremontii</i>	corolla white; outer phyllaries sharp, becoming glabrous; lvs entire or 1-pinnately lobed, lobes 1-2(5) pairs, well-separated, longest lobe gen near middle
AST	<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>glabriuscula</i>	corolla yellow

CHE	<i>Atriplex canescens</i> ssp. <i>canescens</i>	shrub; fruit 4 winged, 4-25 mm
CHE	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i> ssp. <i>lentiformis</i>	shrub; fr unwinged, 2-6 mm; lvs entire, ovate to deltate, gen 10-50 mm wide
CHE	<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i>	shrub; fr unwinged, 2-3 mm; lvs entire, oblong, 2-4 mm wide
FAB	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	no glands on leaf rachis
FAB	<i>Astragalus crotalariae</i>	leaves green
HYD	<i>Phacelia crenulata</i> var. <i>ambigua</i>	like <i>P. pedicellata</i> , but with gray / yellow pollen, and pedicels shorter than calyx
HYD	<i>Phacelia crenulata</i> var. <i>minutiflora</i>	like <i>P. pedicellata</i> , but with gray / yellow pollen, and pedicels shorter than calyx
HYD	<i>Phacelia pedicellata</i>	like <i>P. crenulata</i> , but with blue/purple pollen and pedicels at least as long as calyx
KRA	<i>Krameria erecta</i>	spines barbed along shaft or smooth; flag petals fused at base
KRA	<i>Krameria grayi</i>	spines barbed only at tip; flag petals free
LOA	<i>Mentzelia affinis</i>	fruit 1 rowed above mid-ovary; seeds prism-like, 3 angled
LOA	<i>Mentzelia albicaulis</i>	fruit 2-3 rowed above mid-ovary; seeds grain-like
RHA	<i>Ziziphus parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i>	Similar in habit to <i>Prunus fremontii</i> , but leaf elliptic to obovate, margin ~entire; fr glabrous; petals yellow
ROS	<i>Prunus fremontii</i>	Similar in habit to <i>Ziziphus parryi</i> , but leaf ovate to round, crenulate to serrate (you "prunus with a saw"), fruit puberulent; petals white
TYP	<i>Typha domingensis</i>	pistillate stalks peg-like, not hair-like

http://tchester.org/bd/species/similar_species.html

Updated 20 November 2009.

AST	<i>Chaenactis stevioides</i>	corolla white; outer phyllaries gen blunt, persistently glandular-hairy or cobwebby; largest lf blades entire or 1-2 pinnately lobed, longest lobe gen near middle
AST	<i>Chaenactis xantiana</i>	lower sts and lvs glabrous or +-cobwebby; largest lf blades entire or 1-2 pinnately lobed, longest lobe gen near middle; corolla white, longest phyllaries 10-18 mm, bases glabrous, tips densely puberulent; corollas radial; peduncles not glandular
AST	<i>Chrysothamnus paniculatus</i>	like <i>Ericamera brachylepis</i> , but phyllaries ~ 5 ranked in columns, midvein not prominently raised
AST	<i>Chrysothamnus teretifolius</i>	herbage gland-dotted; corollas yellow; phyllaries strongly vertically ranked, tips swollen, green
AST	* <i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	midvein of phyllary green to purple, not resin-filled; ligules ~ 0 mm
AST	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	midvein of phyllary brown, resin-filled; ligules 0-1 mm
AST	<i>Encelia actoni</i>	heads solitary; rays present
AST	<i>Encelia farinosa</i>	heads in panicles; dead heads nodding, minute
AST	<i>Encelia frutescens</i>	heads solitary; rays absent
AST	<i>Ericameria brachylepis</i>	lvs thread-like; heads in raceme-like or narrowly panicle-like clusters at ends of leafy branches
AST	<i>Ericameria cuneata</i> var. <i>spathulata</i>	lvs obovate, 4-16 mm wide
AST	<i>Ericameria linearifolia</i>	lvs linear; head 1 per stem
AST	<i>Eriophyllum multicaule</i>	heads ~ sessile, peduncle < 5 mm; ray fls 5-7, ligules ~ 2 mm, yellow
AST	<i>Eriophyllum wallacei</i>	peduncle 1-3 cm; ray fls 5-10, ligules 3-4 mm, yellow to cream-white
AST	<i>Filago arizonica</i>	sts spreading, heads in groups of 4-10, restricted to forks and tips of branches; sts gen lfless between lower forks, ~glabrous, purplish to black
AST	<i>Filago californica</i>	sts ~erect, not forked, central axis dominant; heads in groups of 1-4, not restricted to forks and branch tips; sts ~evenly leafy between lower forks, cobwebby, grayish to greenish; lvs gen oblanceolate, acute
AST	<i>Filago depressa</i>	sts ~spreading, forked, central axis not dominant; heads in groups of 1-4, not restricted to forks and branch tips; sts ~evenly leafy between lower forks, cobwebby, grayish to greenish; lvs gen elliptic to obovate, obtuse

AST	<i>Geraea canescens</i>	lvs wing-petioled below, invol 7-12 mm; phyllaries narrowly lanceolate, acute, green ciliate; ray fls 10-21, ligules 1-2 cm	AST	<i>Viguiera parishii</i>	pappus of 2 fringed scales (each 0.5-1.5 mm) and 2-3 lanceolate scales (each 2-3 mm)
AST	<i>Helianthus niveus</i> ssp. <i>canescens</i>	central chaff scales tipped with stiff white hairs	BOR	<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i> var. <i>intermedia</i>	calyx lobes 5; corolla tube 10 veined near base; nutlet surface tubercled, sometimes ridged; corolla 7-11 mm, 4-10 mm wide at top
AST	<i>Helianthus niveus</i> ssp. <i>tephrodes</i>	sand dunes; central chaff scales glabrous or very finely appressed-hairy	BOR	<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i> var. <i>menziesii</i>	calyx lobes 5; corolla tube 10 veined near base; nutlet surface tubercled, sometimes ridged; corolla 4-7 mm, 2-3 mm wide at top
AST	<i>Isocoma acradenia</i> var. <i>acradenia</i>	lvs narrowly lanceolate, entire; invols 4-5 mm	BOR	<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i> var. <i>tessellata</i>	calyx lobes 2-4; corolla tube 20 veined near base; nutlet surface cobblestone-like or round-tubercled, ridged or not; corolla 8-12 mm, 2-6 mm wide at top
AST	<i>Isocoma acradenia</i> var. <i>eremophila</i>	lvs narrowly obovate, with long-tapering base, to oboate, with 4-6 teeth per side; invols 5-7 mm	BOR	<i>Cryptantha angustifolia</i>	corolla width 1-5 mm; calyx 1-3.6 mm in fl, 2.5-4 mm in fr; nutlets 4
AST	<i>Malacothrix californica</i>	st scapose; lvs gen long-hairy near base	BOR	<i>Cryptantha barbigera</i>	corolla width 1-8 mm; calyx 4-6 mm in fl, 5-10 mm in fr; nutlets 1-4
AST	<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i>	sts leafy, ~branched; basal lvs not long-hairy at base	BOR	<i>Cryptantha costata</i>	nutlets 4, sharp-angled; calyx in fl 3-4 mm
AST	<i>Pectis papposa</i> var. <i>papposa</i>	herbage spicy-scented; mound-shaped; lvs narrowly linear, gland-dotted on margins; phyllaries 8, linear, each with subterminal gland and several smaller submarginal glands; rays 8; corollas 3-6 mm	BOR	<i>Cryptantha decipiens</i>	like <i>C. holoptera</i> , but with spikes mostly in 2's; corolla width 1-5 mm; calyx 1.5-2.5 mm in fl, 2-4 mm in fr; nutlets 1-2
AST	<i>Porophyllum gracile</i>	Somewhat similar to <i>Adenophyllum porophylloides</i> , but lvs entire, linear, glaucous	BOR	<i>Cryptantha ganderi</i>	corolla width 1-2 mm; calyx 3-4 mm in fl, 6-10 mm in fr; nutlets 1-2
AST	<i>Rafinesquia californica</i>	ligules 5-8 mm, 3-5 mm beyond phyllaries	BOR	<i>Cryptantha holoptera</i>	like <i>C. decipiens</i> , but with numerous short ascending branches; nutlets winged < 0.5 mm, wings not lobed
AST	<i>Rafinesquia neomexicana</i>	ligules 15-20 mm, 10+mm beyond phyllaries	BOR	<i>Cryptantha intermedia</i>	corolla width 2-8 mm; calyx 2-3.2 mm in fl, 3.5-6 mm in fr; nutlets 1-4
AST	<i>*Sonchus asper</i> ssp. <i>asper</i>	basal lobes of lvs rounded	BOR	<i>Cryptantha maritima</i>	corolla width 0.5-1.5 mm; calyx 1-2 mm in fl, 2-3.1 mm in fr; nutlets 1-2
AST	<i>*Sonchus oleraceus</i>	basal lobes of lvs acute	BOR	<i>Cryptantha micrantha</i>	Plant gen wider than tall; flowers in dense bracted heads; calyx not circumscissile; root purplish
AST	<i>Stephanomeria exigua</i> ssp. <i>deanei</i>	peduncles and invols strongly glandular; frs 2-2.5 mm	BOR	<i>Cryptantha muricata</i>	corolla width 1-8 mm; calyx 1-2 mm in fl, 2-4.2 mm in fr; nutlets 4(2-4)
AST	<i>Stephanomeria exigua</i> ssp. <i>exigua</i>	peduncles and invols glabrous to sparsely glandular; frs 2.6-3.2 mm	BOR	<i>Cryptantha nevadensis</i>	corolla width 1-2 mm; calyx 1.8-4 mm in fl, 4-10 mm in fr; nutlets 4
AST	<i>Stylocline gnaphaloides</i>	lvs gen obtuse, uppermost < 13 mm, ~elliptic to obovate	BOR	<i>Cryptantha pterocarya</i>	nutlets winged 0.5-1.0 mm, wings lobed
AST	<i>Stylocline micropoides</i>	lvs acute, uppermost gen 11-15 mm, awl-like to lanceolate	BOR	<i>Cryptantha pterocarya</i> var. <i>cycloptera</i>	Plant tall, upright; flower appears to float out of a honking calyx, due to the wings on the nutlets
AST	<i>Trichoptilium incisum</i>	gen tomentose or white-woolly; lvs mostly clustered in lower half, 1-3 cm; heads discoid, solitary; phyllaries in 2 ~equal series, free, 5-7 mm; pappus of 5 scales, each 5-7 mm, dissected into many bristles	BOR	<i>Cryptantha racemosa</i>	perennial