

***Sclerocactus cloverae* Heil & Porter *ssp. brackii* Heil & Porter**
Brack Hardwall Cactus

Family: Cactaceae

Synonyms: None

NESL Status: G4

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Stems mostly solitary, elongate cylindrical, 3 – 8 cm long, 2 – 7 cm in diameter; central spines usually 4 – 5, straw colored to brown, lower one hooked and about 3 cm long; radial spines 5 – 8; flowers purple, 2.5 – 3.5 cm long, 1.5 – 3 cm in diameter; fruits green to tan, 1 – 5 mm long, 5 – 12 mm broad. Flowers from late April to May.

Similar species: Differs from *S. cloverae ssp. cloverae* by first producing flowers when they are 3 cm or less in diameter. The var. *brackii* exhibits reduced spination that last for several years into early reproductive maturity.

Habitat: Desert scrub and scattered juniper communities. On sandy clay hills of the Nacimiento Formation at 5000 to 6000ft.

Distribution: San Juan County, New Mexico.

Navajo Nation Distribution: San Juan County, NM, south of the San Juan River.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: San Juan County, NM, south of the San Juan River.

Survey Period: Positive identification is only possible during the flowering and fruiting period from late April to mid June. Suitable habitat can be identified year round.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less depending on size and nature of the project.

References:

Heil, K., and J.M. Porter. 1994. *Sclerocactus* (Cactaceae): A Revision. *Haseltonia* No. 2: 20 - 46.

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. New Mexico Rare Plants. Albuquerque, NM. New Mexico Rare Plants Homepage. <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu>

USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1995. The Farmington District Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Plant Field Guide. Prepared by Ecosphere Environmental Services, Inc., Farmington, NM.



Sclerocactus cloverae ssp. *brackii*

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Sclerocactus cloverae ssp. *brackii* habitat

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