

WILD POTATO COLLECTING TRIP REPORT

Rincon Mountains, Arizona, Sept 24-29, 2006

Participants: John Bamberg (B), Charles “Chico” Fernandez (F), Alfonso del Rio (dR)

Concept: Gathering of materials for third example in case study of relative diversity in proximal “easy” (drive-up) vs. “hard” (hike and camp) collecting sites. Previous cases were in Chiricahuas (2004) and Huachucas (2005).

Summary

Results: Made 11 collections from Rincons of which 10 survived. First germplasm ever collected from this range, of which most are from first reported sites. Required hikes of about 25 miles with 35-40 lb. packs, and another 10 miles without, and 4 days / 3 nights wilderness camping.

Preparations and parameters: \$3K grant and 2 GPS from PEO office, Beltsville, c/o Karen Williams. Travel approval and ARS payment for non-feds F and dR. Advice from Meg Weesner of SNP (520-733-5170). Made map from NPS Saguaro National Park website blown up to one page size and laminated with clear contact paper, showing trail names, lengths, camps and springs. Gridded with degrees so points on map need only be annotated with decimal minutes for orientation with GPS. (see attached). Flights to Tucson and lodging (vandalism at trailhead motivated us to lodge at Tanque Verde Guest Ranch, very near trailhead). Permits and advice c/o Meg Weesner. Cell phone rented by dR in Madison. Local weekly rainfall reports from web since July (unusually heavy this year). Trails well marked except North Slope and with abundant water. Previous herbarium site reports: Bowers R1253, Spud Rock cabin, 7690 ft. and Bowers R1261, between Manning Camp and Devil’s Bathtub, 7300 ft., both Aug 13, 1983. No previous germplasm.

Records, contacts and germplasm: US Potato Genebank, 4312 Hwy 42, Sturgeon Bay, WI, 54235. 920-743-5406. nr6jb@ars-grin.gov.

TRIP LOG

(all coordinates are in WGS84 datum minutes NW of 32EN x 110EW except as noted)

Sunday, September 24

Pre-trip exploration of Douglas Springs trail and water sites (without packs). Start at 6:30 AM from end-of-Speedway trailhead (32E14.113 x 110E41.211, 2750 ft) to (13.812 x 38.082, 4376 ft), a shaded "Oasis" reststop at 9:15, and back by noon. At least 6 water sites on this course, so no need to carry much. Today a 9 mile roundtrip with 1650 ft gain in about 6 hours. To Summerhaven in Santa Catalina mts to check condition of plants this year. Plants and fruit at Bear campground not nearly as abundant as observed in 2005 and more spindly. At Mt. Biglow, hardly any plants and no fruit.

Monday, September 25

Up 5 AM, eat, B drives packs, F and dR to trailhead, parks in TVGR parking lot and walks back to trailhead. All depart 6:05 AM.

Arrive Douglas Springs (DS) camp site 10:35 AM (13.717 x 36.423, 4668 ft). Two water sites between "oasis" and DS. DS is grassy, hot, little shade, bear boxes and outhouse. Appears little used. Stream running full over rock slabs and pools big enough for bathing. Today about 7 mile hike with packs.

Tuesday, September 26

Up at 4 AM to watch sunrise. Breakfast, break camp, water up, leave 7:00 AM.

Arrive Cowhead Saddle (12.224 x 13.988, 6144 ft) at 8:30 AM. Water at or near trail was seen at 5 places between here and DS. Cell phone works here for first time. Leave Cowhead Saddle at 9:30 going E to Manning Camp (MC).

Waterfall at 34.508. Arrive big boulder outcrop with view to S (12.599 x 34.409, 7632 ft), rest and continue at noon. From here, pine forest and trail along stream with many water sites. Reach Fire Loop trail jct (12.83 x 33.43) at 1:00 PM. Reach Manning Camp at 1:15. Many people from trail crew are camping here, among them Tanner Fritzka a native of Sturgeon Bay and high school friend of F's daughter. Large cabin here, developed springbox, plenty of water in stream, corral for horses, outhouses, fire rings and bear boxes. We are shown campsites and pick one farthest from cabin, #3. Make camp and fire. B explores Devil's Bathtub trail (just W of camp) to where stream crosses

trail. Retire at 8PM. Shivering night with low of 38F. Today about 7 mile hike with packs.

Wednesday, September 27

On Devil's Bathtub trail at 6:45 AM. **Collection #1.**

Big rock outcropping with view to S at 11.965 x 33.114. Good cell phone reception here. Reach jct to Devil's Bathtub or Madrona station at 8:04. **Collections #2, #3, #4, #5.**

At 9:50 reach Eastslope Trail jct at 11.687 x 32.147. Note that trails are in very good condition and blazed with orange metal flags on trailside tree trunks. At 10:15, jct to Spudrock Camp at 12.079 x 32.033, 7532 ft. **Collection #6.**

Reach Spudrock camp and spring (dry) at 10:50. At 12.262 x 31.921, 7360 ft. Up Switchback Trail (not marked as such on map). Meet Heartbreak Ridge trail at 11:15. Note a few small plants without fruit at 12.144 x 32.359, 7900 ft, big Ponderosas. Water at 12.303 x 32.425, 8045 ft. Reach Fire Loop trail jct at 11:55. Note a few small yellow plants without fruit at 12.477 x 33.059, 7996 ft. Also, small yellow plants about 200 paces W of jct with Mica Mountain trail and between here and Manning Camp. Met and talked with ranger on his way to weather station. **Collection #7.**

Back to Manning Campsite 1:00 PM for water, lunch, rest. Leave Manning Camp 3:00 PM to explore trails to N. Going N on Mica Mt. trail at 3:20, Spudrock trail jct (map shows Meadow trail jct first, but it is very near). At 3:32 and 12.93 x 32.69, 8310 ft, small yellow plants beside trail w/o fruit (not collected). **Collection #8b.**

Reach jct Mica Mt. and Fire Loop trails 3:55 PM, 13.22 x 32.50, 8560 ft. Party splits, F&dR taking loop to W, B taking loop to E. F&dR party return to Manning Camp, finding no more potatoes. B reaches Bonita trail jct 13.29 x 22.41 at 4:03 PM. **Collection #9.**

At 4:26 reach weather station on Bonita trail, 12.80 x 32.31, 8360 ft. At 4:27 reach jct Bonita and (S) Fire Loop. **Collection #10.**

W on Meadow trail, to jct with Mica Mt trail and proceed S. **Collection #8a.**

Arrive Manning Camp 5:30 PM. Talk to ranger at cabin. Supper. Sit around fire until 10:30. Less shivering tonight, low of 41F. Today about 9 mile hike without packs.

Thursday, September 28

Up at 5:00 AM, breakfast, break camp, water up and out at 7:35. Reach jct with N Fire Loop trail (12.791 x 33.431, 8083 ft) at 8:00, jct with North Slope trail at 8:10. This trail very poorly maintained and difficult to follow. **Collection #11.**

Continue W to 13.116 x 33.322, 8185 ft and turn back. Back to North Slope and Manning Camp trail jcts, leave for Tucson 9:50 AM. Reach Cowhead Saddle at 11:20. Reach Douglas Springs campsite at 1:10, have lunch, leave at 2:10. At 3:05 reach “oasis” at which we stopped on Sunday—almost dried up now. Arrive back at Speedway trailhead about 5:30 and lodge Tanque Verde Guest Ranch #15. Today about 14 mile hike most with packs.

Friday, September 29

Report by phone to Meg Weesner. Check out from TVGR. Benson Hwy Motel 6.

Saturday, September 30

Gas up and to airport, fly to Minneapolis, then back to Milwaukee at 8:30, to Super-8, drive State vehicle home, arriving about 11:30 PM.

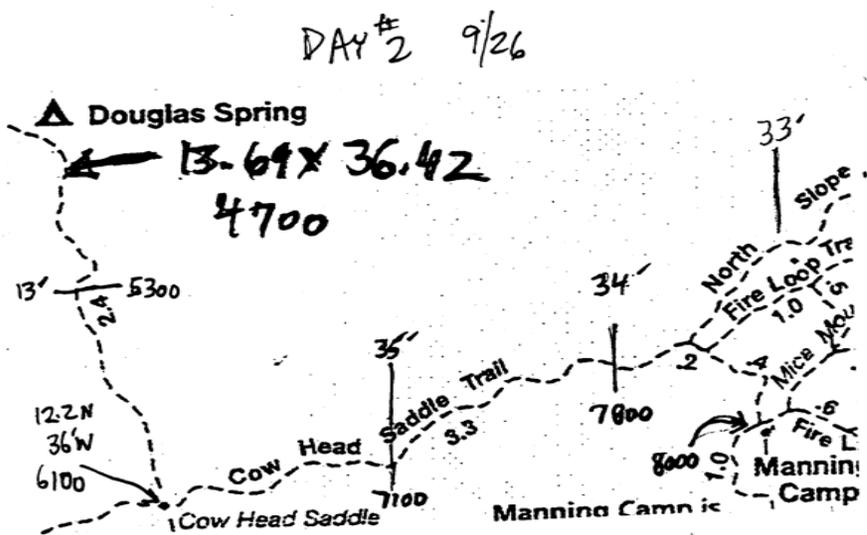
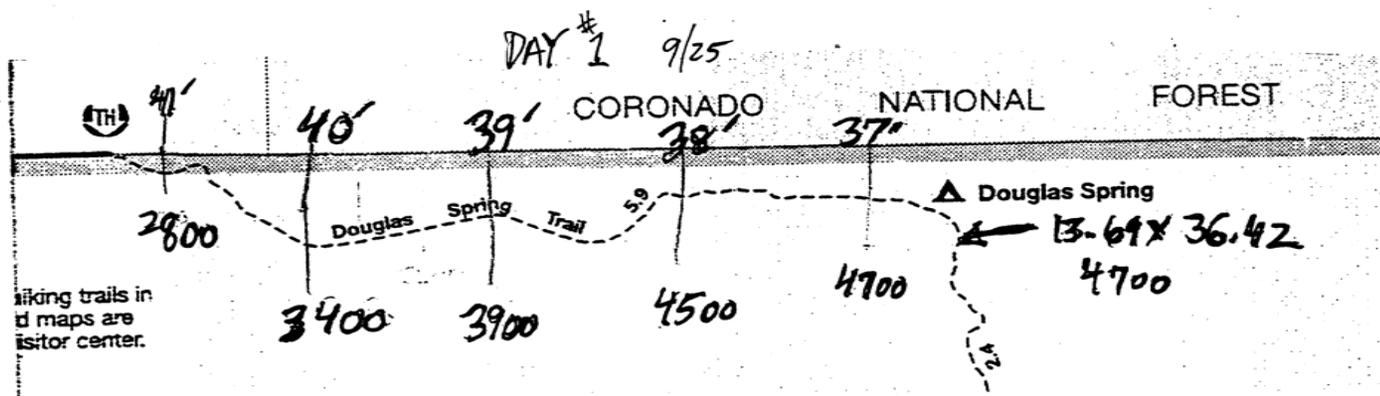
COLLECTIONS LIST

Sept 27-28, 2006. All are *S. stoloniferum* Schldl.

SW06 Coll No	BFdR Coll No	WGS84 Lat min N of 32E	WGS84 Lon min W of 110E	Elev (ft.)	Location Description narrative
1	146	12.177	33.273	7755	#1. PI 643992, BFdR 146. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. Near Manning camp on trail to Devil's Bathtub. Where stream crosses trail. 32E12.177 x 110E33.273 and 7755 ft. Four or five very small light green plants near stream bed. Collected two tiny tubers and leaves, photo. Tubers died.
2	147	11.893	33.103	7603	#2. PI 643993, BFdR 147. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. On Devil's Bathtub trail E of jct to Madrona station where stream crosses trail. At 32E11.893 x 110E33.103 and 7603 ft. Along stream both N and S of trail. Dozens of large and small light green plants, some with mature fruit, nested under oak scrub and among rocks. Grazed. Collected fruit and leaves, photo. Recovered 32 fruit, 4 with seed grub scars, 2229 total original seeds.
3	148	11.770 - 11.805	32.889 - 32.991	7560- 7510	#3. PI 643994, BFdR 148. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. On Devil's Bathtub trail E of jct to Madrona station. Along trail at 32E11.805 x 110E32.991, 7560 ft. (S facing) and to 32E 11.770 x 110E32.889, 7516 ft (E facing). A few small yellow plants with mature fruit. Collected fruit and leaves. Recovered 9 fruit, no seed grub scars, 257 total original seeds.
4	149	11.855	32.704	7520	#4. PI 643995, BFdR 149. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. On Devil's Bathtub trail upstream (N) from Devil's Bathtub at 32E11.855 x 110E 32.704 and 7520 ft. A few small yellow plants with mature fruit under brush. Collected fruit and leaves. Recovered 9 fruit, one with seed grub, 533 total original seeds.
5	150	11.855	32.542	7600	#5. PI 643996, BFdR 150. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. On Devil's Bathtub trail 80 ft E of bathtub where stream crosses trail. At 32E11.855 x 110E 32.542, 7600 ft. A few small yellow plants with mature fruit. Collected fruit and leaves. Recovered 14 fruit, 2 with seed grub scars, 588 total original seeds.
6	151	12.195	31.984	7453	#6. PI 643997, BFdR 151. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. On trail about 0.1 mile from Spudrock camp at Deer Spring trail jct. Open fern meadow. Many large yellow plants, rarely with fruit nested among dry ferns. Often grazed—much rabbit droppings. At 32E 12.195 x 110E 31.984 and 7453 ft. Collected fruit and leaves. Recovered 9 fruit, 5 with seed grub scars, 223 total original seeds.

7	152	12.500	33.240	7940	#7. PI 643998, BFdR 152. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. At Manning Camp just E of lagoon and near heliport. At 32E 12.500 x 110E 33.240 and 7940 ft. Rare small and large yellow plants in open grassy area, rarely with fruit. Collected fruit and leaves. Recovered 4 fruit, 1? with seed grub scars, 230 total original seeds.
8a	153	12.72	32.93	7675	#8A. PI 643999, BFdR 153. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. On Mica Mt trail between Meadow trail jct and S Fire Loop jct, Outcrops of boulders and cliffs off both sides of trail. Plants nestled among boulders and cliffs off trail, e.g., 32E 12.72 x 110E 32.93, 7675 ft. Collected fruit. Recovered 6 fruit, none with seed grub scars, 430 total original seeds.
8b	154	12.94 - 13.02	32.68 - 32.56	8350- 8450	#8b. PI 644000, BFdR 154. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. Near Mica Mt. Mica Mountain trail between Meadow jct and N Fire Loop trail. At 32E12.94 x 110E32.68 to 32E13.02 x 110E32.56, 8350 – 8450 ft. Collected fruit and leaves. Recovered 15 fruit, none with seed grub, 991 total original seeds.
9	155	13.227	32.370	8600	#9. PI 644001, BFdR 155. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. Near N end of Bonita trail (i.e., jct with Fire Loop trail). About 50 ft E of trail in W facing boulder cliff. Several dozen green wilted plants to 20 cm nestled between rocks with many mature fruit. At 32E13.227 x 110E32.370, 8600 ft. Collected fruit. Recovered 29 fruit, none with seed grub, 1,875 total original seeds.
10	156	12.75	32.37	8350	#10. PI 644002, BFdR 156. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 27, 2006. On S Fire Loop trail between jct with Bonita and Meadow trails. Among boulders near trail in grassy meadow. Many small, light colored plants, rarely with fruit. At 32E12.75 x 110E32.37, 8350 ft. Collected fruit. Recovered 2 fruit, none with seed grub, 93 total original seeds.
11	157	13.04	33.39	8216	#11. PI 644003, BFdR 157. <i>S. stoloniferum</i> . Arizona. Pima County. Rincon mts. Sept 28, 2006. Near W end of North Slope trail (i.e., jct with Manning Camp trail). NW facing slope along trail among rocks. Small yellow plants with fruit but with ovipositor scars and containing maggots. At 32E13.04 x 110E33.39 and 8216 ft. Collect tubers and fruit. Recovered 6 tubers, 18 fruit, most with seed grubs, 270 total original seeds.

RINCON WILDERNESS DOUGLAS SPRINGS ACCESS MAP



RINCONES 2006 TRAILS AND COLLECTIONS MAP

