

Burrobrush

Genus/species *Hymenoclea salsola*

Family **Asteraceae**

Distribution **Southwestern United States** SE California, Nevada, SW Utah
eastward through Arizona to S New Mexico
and W Texas

Comments This shrub of the hot deserts (Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan) is usually found below an elevation of 4000 feet, where it is also known as White Burrobrush and Cheeseweed, the latter name coming from the cheese-like odor released when the foliage is crushed. It generally grows in sandy washes where it forms a rounded shrub occasionally exceeding 4 feet in height. The smooth dark yellowish-green leaves are very narrow and are rather inconspicuous along the similarly-colored twigs. The flowers, are surrounded by rather conspicuous somewhat white or off-white translucent scales that are suggestive of petals, and including these scales are about a quarter inch in diameter. Blooming is generally in the spring, from March to May. The fruit is a small winged bur.

