

Additions to Black Mesa Flora Study

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Many changes have taken place in far western Oklahoma since Jim McPherson's untimely death in 1994. Then the mesa lobe containing the highest point in Oklahoma and its surrounding slopes was owned and managed by the Oklahoma Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, but it soon became part of Black Mesa State Park. Private lands still separate the two portions of the Park, but they are now connected by a public road.

Since that time and during the course of several weekend outings with the Oklahoma Academy of Science and the Oklahoma Native Plant Society, I have been adding to McPherson's list, as many plant species as could be found in bloom or fruit. These species are not already listed by McPherson as present in the mesa area. Voucher specimens are housed in the Robert Bebb Herbarium (OKL) at the University of Oklahoma.

Most visitors to Black Mesa camp in the original park area near Lake Etling. In this list plants collected at that site are noted as "park". Plants found along the roads leading to the Mesa or to the outlying canyons are noted as "roadside". A few plants were found only at privately owned, Tessequite Canyon, one of the many side canyons leading down from the Mesa. Those are identified with the name "Tessequite". "Mesa" denotes plants from Black Mesa or its slopes. McPherson's collections were solely from the Mesa.

Through the years Black Mesa State Park has been studied by several

botanists, including C.M. Rogers and U.T. Waterfall, as well as McPherson. It is hoped that their work, along with this list will serve as a basis for the initiation of future explorations in that geographic region.

The approximate GPS location of Black Mesa State Park is between latitudes 36.833 and 36.861 and longitudes 102.862 and 102.900. The elevation of the mesa ranges from 4960 ft (1512 m) to 4973 ft (1516 m). It is now contained within Black Mesa State Park which contains approximately 349 acres of land.

REFERENCES

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USDA-NRCS 2003. The PLANTS database. (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>.)

Additional Plant List for Black Mesa 2003

FAMILY/SPECIES	COMMON NAME	SITE	STATUS
Family Asclepiadaceae			
<i>Asclepias macrotis</i>	longhorn milkweed	park	native
Family Asteraceae			
<i>Bidens cernua</i>	nodding tickseed	park	introduced
<i>Dyssodia papposa</i>	fetid marigold	park	native
<i>Gnaphalium wrightii</i>	Wright's cudweed	park	native
<i>Palafoxia sphacelata</i>	rayed palafoxia	roadside	native
<i>Psilostrophe villosa</i>	paperflower	park	native
<i>Senecio flaccidus</i>	groundsel	mesa	native
<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	prairie ironweed	park	native
Family Boraginaceae			
<i>Heliotropium convolvulaceum</i>	bindweed heliotrope	park	native
<i>Lithospermum multiflorum</i>	many-flowered puccoon	park	native
Family Brassicaceae			
<i>Erysimum asperum</i>	wallflower	park	native
Family Cactaceae			
<i>Echinocereus viridiflora</i>	hedgehog cactus	mesa	native
<i>Opuntia fragilis</i>	brittle prickly pear	park	native
<i>Opuntia macrorhiza</i>	white-spine prickly pear	park	native
<i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i>	brownspear prickly pear	park	native
Family Campanulaceae			
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	cardinal flower	park	native
Family Capparidaceae			
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	Rocky Mountain beeplant	park	native
<i>Polanisia jamesii</i>	James' clammyweed	park	native
Family Caryophyllaceae			
<i>Paronychia sessiliflora</i>	nailwort	roadside	native
Family Chenopodiaceae			
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	4-wing saltbush	park	native
<i>Chenopodium leptophyllum</i>	narrowleaf goosefoot	park	native

<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	tumbleweed	roadside	introduced
Family Cyperaceae			
<i>Carex brevior</i>	sedge	park	native
<i>Cyperus globulosus</i>		park	native
<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	hardstem bulrush	park	native
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	darkgreen bulrush	park	native
Family Dryopteridaceae			
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	brittle fern	park	native
Family Fabaceae			
<i>Astragalus ceramicus</i>	painted milkvetch	park	native
<i>Colutea arborescens</i>		roadside	introduced
<i>Dalea tenuifolia</i>	slimleaf prairie clover	park	native
Family Fagaceae			
<i>Quercus mohriana</i>	shin oak	Tessequite	native
Family Lamiaceae			
<i>Teucrium laciniatum</i>	cutleaf germander	park	native
Family Liliaceae			
<i>Nolina texana</i>	beargrass	Tessequite	native
<i>Yucca harrimaniae</i>	New Mexico yucca	park	native
Family Loasaceae			
<i>Mentzelia oligosperma</i>	stickleaf	park	native
Family Nyctaginaceae			
<i>Mirabilis albida</i>	white 4 o'clock	park	native
<i>Mirabilis nyctaginea</i>	wild 4 o'clock	park	native
Family Onagraceae			
<i>Gaura villosa</i>	wooly gaura	roadside	native
<i>Oenothera engelmannii</i>	Engelmann's eve. primrose	roadside	native
<i>Oenothera latifolia</i>	mountain eve. primrose	park	native
Family Poaceae			
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	sand sedge	park	native
<i>Chloris virgata</i>		park	native
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	saltgrass	park	native

<i>Muhlenbergia racemosa</i>	marsh muhly	park	native
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	park	native
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	rabbit-foot grass	park	native
Family Polemoniaceae			
<i>Gilia rigidula</i>	prickleleaf gilia	base of mesa	native
Family Polygonaceae			
<i>Eriogonum tenellum</i>	no common name	park & mesa	native
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	water knotweed	park	native
<i>Rumex altissimus</i>	tall dock	park	native
Family Ranunculaceae			
<i>Ranunculus abortivus</i>	small-flowered buttercup	lake	native
Family Rosaceae			
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	western wood-rose	park	native
Family Rutaceae			
<i>Ptelia trifoliata</i>	wafer ash	mesa	native
Family Scrophulariaceae			
<i>Veronica anagalis-aquatica</i>	water speedwell	park	introduced
Family Verbenaceae			
<i>Glandularia bipinnatifida</i>	cutleaf verbena	park	native
Family Vitaceae			
<i>Vitis acerifolia</i>	no common name	park	native