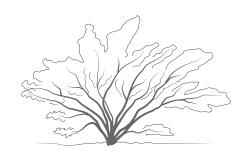


YOU CAN FIND CREOSOTE BUSHES IN CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, UTAH, ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO, TEXAS, AND MEXICO.

## SCIENCE MMM JENNYBALLIF.COM-



## The CREOSOTE Bush

A pocket-sized field guide

The creosote bush, known by the scientific name Larrea tridentata, is one of the most common plants in the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan Deserts.

Growing at elevations between sea level and 5,000 feet, this evergreen shrub blankets entire valleys in a pattern of regularly-spaced bushes.

In addition to identification and basic information, this pocket-sized field guide explores some of the talents that make this seemingly ordinary plant one incredible species.

2

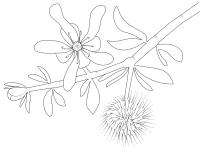


DISTRIBUTION

Mojave Desert

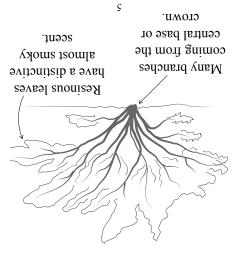
Sonoran Desert

seeds are fuzzy and white. Flowers have  $\delta$  yellow petals and



Leaves have 2 oblong leaflets.

Mature stems are woody, light grey.



between 3-12 feet tall. Evergreen shrub

IDENTIFICATION

'HSINV<sub>d</sub>S **SLINKEB IN WEVNS TILLTE** Hediondilla Jarilla

"LHE CONEKNEZZ"

Cobernadora

**Greesewood** Chaparral

Creosote Bush

THE COMMON NAMES:

TEVETELS' NOL LHKEE' LKIDENLYLY WOZL OŁLEN HYZ LMO LHKEE "TEETH" OR LOBES, BUT LARREA OK BIG ZYGEBKUSH) HAS LEAVES WITH DESERT SHUB (ARTEMISIA TRIDENTATA) DENL', WEYNING LOOLH' VNOLHEK EBOW "LBI", WEVNING LHBEE' VND

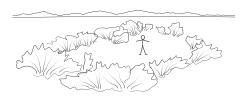


THE SCIENTIFIC NAME:

## ONE OF THE OLDEST LIVING THINGS

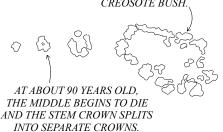
When a certain variety of Creosote gets very old, the main stems in the middle die and the crown splits, forming a circular ring.

King Clone, a Creosote Bush growing in the Lucerne Valley of California, is thought to be 11,700 years old. DNA testing proved that what looks like a ring of bushes was in fact, the same bush. Scientists estimated the age by using radiocarbon dating on pieces of wood in the center of the ring, counting growth rings, and comparing King Clone to other Creosote Bushes.



King Clone: 30 feet wide and nearly 70 feet long.

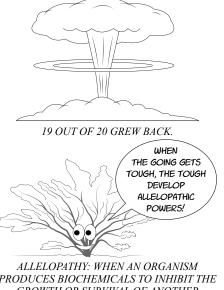
SATELLITE VIEW OF KING CLONE, THE OLDEST CLONAL CREOSOTE BUSH.



## A SUPER TOUGH PLANT

How tough are Creosote Bushes? They've survived a thermonuclear explosion. Out of 20 plants observed to be destroyed by a blast in Nevada, 19 grew back from the roots after their tops had been burned away.

They're also tough on competitors. Creosote bushes secrete a resin that discourages other plants from germinating near them. Their ability to discourage neighbors, both through allelopathy and pulling most of the water from the soil, often gives them a "planted" appearance where bushes grow at regular intervals.



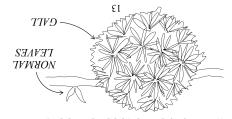
PRODUCES BIOCHEMICALS TO INHIBIT THE GROWTH OR SURVIVAL OF ANOTHER ORGANISM.

10

deserts. are a fundamental part of ours last ice age. These tough survivors living here since shortly after the different in appearance has been os ton daud a that a bush not so next to might be hundreds of years Imagine that the bush you are

whenever it rains in the Mojave. smell that permeates the air and smell the distinctive scent, a Take a moment to rub the leaves

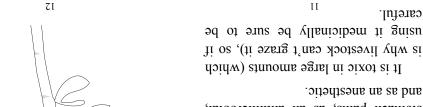
plants on earth. oldest, toughest, most resourceful look at the Creosote: one of the through the desert, stop and take a The next time you travel



MILH TOLZ OF FUNGUS FOR FOOD. 3. LARVA DEVELOPS IN A SAFE HOUSE 7. FUNGUS MAKES PLANT GROW A GALL. BBYNCH YTONG MILH ENNGYT SLOBE I' WOLHEB ETA TYAS EGG INSIDE

with an ingenious strategy: Creosote Gall Midge, a small fly color, you've found the home of a in diameter and green or brown in Creosote Bush that is about I inch If you find a spiked ball on a

HOME FOR A COOL BUG



stomach pains, as an antimicrobial, reasons: as a cure for fever, to abate medicinally for a wide variety of Native people used the Creosote

resin became the soil of the earth. insect that made a resin, and that this bush came the first animal, an world began. From the branches of first life form to germinate when the creation story, the Creosote was the According to a Native American

**WEDICINYL** 

$\mathbf{B}$	A		
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