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NEVADA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Tonestus lyallii - Photo by Andy Fyon (CC-BY-NC) on inaturalist.org

GREETINGS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT, ARNOLD (JERRY) TIEHM

I hope all NNPS members are as excited as I am about the wonderful precipitation we received in December. Then not a drop in January. Please keep up those rain dances!! Last year's lack of precipitation resulted in a total lack of flowers in the deserts and poor to fair blooms in the mid to high elevation areas. My expectations are through the roof for a great flower year. Who knows? We may have another 2005 flower year where we were knee deep in flowers wherever we went.

There are some changes with NNPS for 2022. After 12 years Janel Johnson is stepping down as President. Please join me in thanking Janel for her long tenure of service. This leaves the position of President unoccupied. If anyone is interested in filling this position please let us know.

Janel and Reese Tietje are stepping down as Newsletter Editors - a task they have performed for seven years. Again, many thanks for your service. Ranae Zauner has volunteered to take over editorship of the newsletter. She can be reached at ranaezauner@gmail.com.

Sarah Kulpa recently stepped down from being Vice President. She held this position for nearly 10 years. Please join me in thanking Sarah for her long tenure of service. Last, but not least, John Weiser stepped down as Field Trip Coordinator. He did this job for at least 10 years. I hope you saved some kudos for John! This becomes another open position that we hope to fill. Please let me know if you would be interested in getting more involved with the group and

volunteering in some capacity. With the lack of indoor meetings, field trips in the great outdoors is a great way to personally interact with fellow NNPS members. Keeping up with the rain dances could make for some spectacular field trips.

Of note is our ever expanding presence on Social Media. Emma Wynn has taken the lead on this. If you have anything you would like to broadcast on these platforms please get in touch with Emma.

***TONESTUS LYALLII* AND *OREOCHRYSUM* PARRYI – A SUNFLOWER ADVENTURE**

Story by Arnold Tiehm

I have been working on a checklist for the Flora of Nevada for more years than I would like to admit. For each taxon in the checklist one specimen is cited and all known counties where the taxon occurs are listed. For a county to be in the list there must be a herbarium specimen to vouch its existence. In trying to find voucher specimens an interesting problem was encountered. Here is the problem and the solution.

Tonestus is a genus of four species in tribe Astereae of the sunflower family, Asteraceae. Three of the species occur in Nevada. *Tonestus eximius* occurs in the Sierra Nevada and is known from Douglas and Washoe counties in Nevada. I keep thinking it should also occur in Carson City but so far searches have proved fruitless. *Tonestus graniticus* is endemic to Lone Mountain, west of Tonopah, in Esmeralda County. *Tonestus lyallii* occurs in Elko County.

The distribution of *Tonestus lyallii* is quite interesting. Cronquist in Intermountain Flora (IF) Volume 5, using *Haplopappus lyallii*, lists it as: "B.C. and Alta. to Wash., ne. Oregon (Wallowa Mts.), ne. Nev. (Ruby

Mts.), and Colo" (Cronquist, 1994). In Flora of North America (FNA) the distribution is listed as: "Alta., B.C.; Calif., Colo., Idaho, Mont., Nev., Oreg., Wash., Wyo." (Morse, 2006). Morse (2006) also notes that the "Populations documented from the Coast Range in Siskiyou and Trinity counties, California, are disjunct from those in Oregon and Washington by more than 700 km". The FNA inclusion of California is the only difference from the distribution presented in IF. The Nevada occurrence is based on Heller 9558 from Rattlesnake Canyon, near Lee Post Office on the west side of the Ruby Mountains in Elko County. This collection was made on the 25th of August, 1908. I find it curious that this is the only Nevada collection. The first person to collect in the Ruby Mountains was Sereno Watson in 1868. I packed into the Rubies to Overland Lake last summer so the breadth of years for botanical collectors is 153. Lord knows there have been a plethora of botanists in Lamoille Canyon. So has *Tonestus lyallii* been hiding from us? Does it see us coming and gets out of the way? My guess is that it occurs as a small population east of Lee in an area that, due to private lands, is mostly inaccessible.

Cronquist in IF Volume 5 lists the distribution of *Oreochrysum parryi*, using *Haplopappus parryi*, as: "s. Rocky Mts. of s. Wyo., Colo., and N.M. (and s. to n. Chihuahua), w. to the Wasatch Mts. and Utah Plateaus (as far s. as the Pine Valley Mts.), and in the Stansbury Mts. of Tooele Co., Utah; also in the Ruby Mts. of Elko Co., Nev., in a glandular-puberulent, perhaps varietally separable phase" (Cronquist, 1994). FNA lists the distribution as: "Ariz., Colo., Nev., N. Mex., Utah, Wyo.: Mexico (Chihuahua)" (Nesom, 2006). After listing the distribution Nesom (2006) notes: "*Oreochrysum parryi* was noted by A. Cronquist (1994, p. 244) to occur in "the Ruby Mts. of Elko Co., Nevada, in a glandular-puberulent, perhaps varietally separable phase." The distributions in IF and FNA are equivalent. Nesom's repeating of Cronquist's note makes me think he did not actually see the Ruby Mountains specimen.



Figure 1: *Tonestus lyallii*, Heller 9558, specimen housed at GH.



Figure 2: *Tonestus lyallii*, Heller 9558, specimen housed at NY

A database search for a Nevada specimen of *Oreochrysum parryi* yielded, you guessed it, Heller 9558, listed above as the only Nevada collection of *Tonestus lyallii*.

Both *Tonestus lyallii* and *Oreochrysum parryi* were described in the genus *Haplopappus*. Hall, in his monumental monograph of *Haplopappus*, lists *H. lyallii* as occurring in Nevada. He does not list Nevada in the distribution of *H. parryi* (Hall, 1928). Hall cites Heller 9558 under *H. lyallii* and notes the specimen is housed at the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University (GH). Heller's original printed label lists the scientific name as *Oreochrysum parryi* (see Figure 1). The sheet at GH is annotated by Hall as *Haplopappus lyallii* and by Morse as *Tonestus lyallii*. I am only able to find one other specimen of Heller 9558 and it is housed at The New York Botanical Garden (NY) (see Figure 2). The original label on the NY sheet has the scientific name as

Oreochrysum and it is handwritten on a printed label. There are no annotations on the NY sheet. Cronquist was based at NY. Since he noted the glandular-pubescence of the Nevada specimen it is logical that his comments came from his examining the NY specimen.

I recently examined the NY sheet and I agree with Hall's and Morse's annotation of the GH sheet that the plant is *Tonestus lyallii*. For the Flora of Nevada Checklist *Oreochrysum parryi* has been placed on the excluded list. Does it exist in Nevada? My guess is no but if a specimen comes to light it can be added back to the "in Nevada" list.

I find it curious that Heller 9558 is only represented by specimens at GH and NY. In 1908 Heller was on the staff of the Nevada Agricultural Experimental Station at the University of Nevada, Reno. A position he held until 1912. Other specimens from his 25 August, 1908 collections in the Ruby

Mountains are housed at the University of Nevada, Reno herbarium.

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Morse, C.A. 2006. *Tonestus*. Pp. 181-184. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee. Flora of North America. 20: 1-666.

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SOCIETY NEWS

UPCOMING ZOOM MEETINGS

February 3rd - Lesley DeFalco: Heteromyids, and fires and hares, Oh, my!: Understanding the impediments to Joshua tree regeneration informs active restoration of habitat

Our speaker for the 1st 2022 NNPS program will be Lesley DeFalco, Research Plant Ecologist with the US Geological Survey working out of Boulder City, Nevada. Lesley has been working on *Yucca brevifolia* restoration since the large Juniper Fire at Joshua Tree National Park in 2000. We're very happy Lesley could take time from organizing this year's projects to present recent work to the Society.

NEWSLETTER

Have something to share? We would love to consider your recent trip reports, phenology reports, or Nevada botanical musings for the NNPS newsletter. Contact the editor for details.

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