



## Anderson Wolfberry

### *Lycium andersonii*

#### Anderson Desert Thorn, Waterjacket

#### Description:

**Height:** 1-9' tall and wide

**Flowers:** 1/2", lavender

**Leaves:** 0.09 to 0.66 inch,  
Small and flattened but also  
thick and fleshy

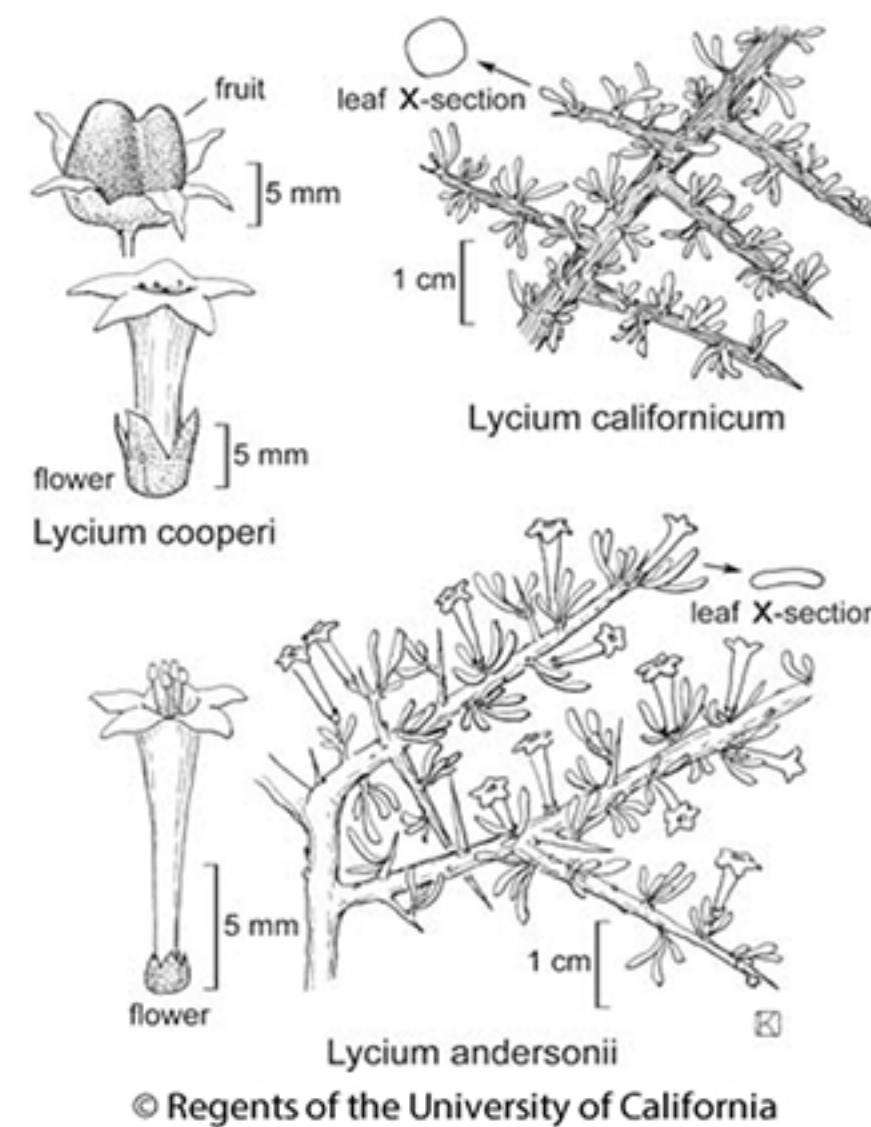
**Fruits:** less than a centimeter

**Flowering:** March to May

#### Uses:

The berries from the Anderson Wolfberry have many uses. It has been used by Native cultures for medicine, ceremonies, food and drinks. Its medical uses include applying the soaked leaves to cuts, and using the ground up roots for toothaches. The berries can be stored for years of use or eaten fresh; they can also be beaten up to extract the juice and make a drink.

It can also provide great cover for small wildlife because the



shrub grows in dense thorny thickets and it's also open around the base to allow for easy escape from predators.

#### Native Cultures:

The Anderson Wolfberry is known to be used by Native cultures through the southwest, including Navajo and Hopi People.

#### Habitats:

The Wolfberry is found along the Colorado River throughout Arizona, but It is also found in southern California, Nevada,

Utah, and New Mexico. It commonly grows on sandy or gravelly washes, sandy or alkali flats, mesas and slopes.

#### Pollinators:

The flowers of Anderson wolfberry are pollinated by birds such as hummingbirds. The small red berries also contain many seeds, so after ingestion, seeds are disseminated by small mammals and birds in droppings.

#### Flowering:

The flowering season for this plant is in the spring. It grows small lavender flowers and small fruits that are less than a centimeter long, though the plant may shed them when conditions are dry.



#### Image Resources:

Illustration: Michael H. Nee. (2012), *Lycium andersonii*, in Jepson Flora Project (eds.) *Jepson Flora*, [https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora\\_display.php?tid=32203](https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=32203)

Photographs: Brayden Lebreck