

## **Stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*)**

- Also called "globe chamomile". "Stinknet" refers to the plant's strong odor.
- *Asteraceae* (Daisy Family). Annual (grows from seed and dies every year), up to 2 feet tall.
- Native to South Africa and Lesotho.

**Similar species:** Pineapple Weed (*Matricaria discoidea*) looks similar, but has a pineapple-like odor. It is also an invasive.

Stinknet is considered invasive in California and Arizona. First seen in San Diego and Los Angeles counties in 1980s, it has since spread widely between these cities, especially in Inland Empire. Spread to Phoenix in early 2000s, and to Tucson by 2015.

- Emergence starts in late November and can continue through May (depending on water – as late as July in coastal areas).
- Flowering late February through May.
- Foliage divided, like carrot or parsley; dark green with strong odor.
- Flowers are bright yellow and ball-shaped, without rays (like the center part of daisys, without the "petals". Flowers up to 1/3" in diameter.
- Growth can be explosive in years with a wet fall and winter.

Per Sonoran Desert Cooperative Weed Management Area website:

*"Plants grow in dense clusters and easily displace native vegetation. During growth the plants can cause severe allergic reactions, both dermal and respiratory. Infestations spread rapidly along roadways and open fields in residential areas, dried dense patches are highly flammable, and the smoke is caustic."*

**Control** is primarily by repeated pulling. Once it's well established, this becomes ineffective. Herbicide application must be post-emergent. Oils in leaves resist herbicide absorption, so herbicides must include a surfactant.

### **Occurrence in Morongo Basin**

**Calflora** has no records of observation within the Morongo Basin.

Nearest in San Bernardino County are in Yucaipa, though they follow I10 eastwards from there, through San Gorgonio Pass and into the lower desert.

Nearest plants to Morongo Basin are two observations (2009 and 2017) in Desert Hot Springs.

**iNaturalist**, however, has several records in our area:

Bella Vista Dr. Morongo Valley	(April 2018)
Pioneer Dr. Morongo Valley	(April 2019)
Scandia Ln. Yucca Valley (north of Aberdeen)	(May 2019)
Hacienda Rd. Newberry Springs	(March 2020)
(no address) Twentynine Palms (SE of Old Dale)	(April 2020)
(Along road between Baker and Tecopa)	(April 2020)
29 Palms Hwy. Yucca Valley (top of grade)	(May 2020)

A couple observations in Las Vegas area, plus one in Lake Hughes (western Mojave Desert).

### **Clickable References with Photos**

CNPS Orange County: <https://www.ocnps.org/PDF/HYS-Oncosiphon-piluliferum.pdf>

Sonoran Desert Cooperative Weed Management Area: <http://sdcwma.org/species/stinknet.php>

CalFlora: [https://www.calflora.org/cgi-](https://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/specieslist.cgi?namesoup=Stinknet&countylist=any&plantcomm=any&format=photos&orderby=taxon)

[bin/specieslist.cgi?namesoup=Stinknet&countylist=any&plantcomm=any&format=photos&orderby=taxon](https://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/specieslist.cgi?namesoup=Stinknet&countylist=any&plantcomm=any&format=photos&orderby=taxon)