

***PYROCOMA EREMICA* (ASTERACEAE: ASTEREAE),
A NEW SPECIES FROM CHURCHILL CO., NEVADA**

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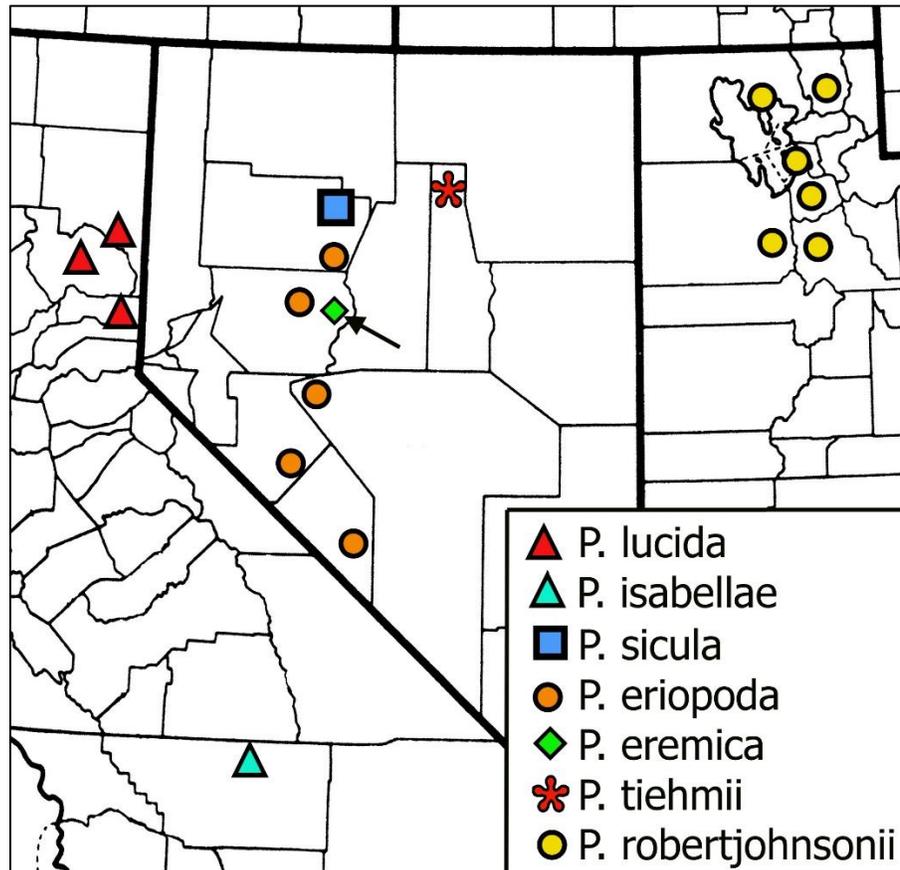
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ABSTRACT

***Pyrocoma eremica* Nesom, sp. nov.**, is described from eastern Churchill Co., Nevada, its only known locality. It apparently is a member of a species group that includes *P. eriopoda*, *P. isabellae*, *P. lucida*, *P. sicula*, *P. tiehmii*, and *P. robertjohnsonii*. The new species is illustrated and mapped.

Had this collection come to attention earlier, it would have been included among the set of species with imbedded-glandular phyllaries with long-acute apices — *Pyrocoma eriopoda*, *P. isabellae*, *P. lucida*, *P. sicula*, and *P. tiehmii* (Nesom 2025a). *Pyrocoma robertjohnsonii* (Nesom 2025b) also is speculatively included in this group, referred to here as the "P. eriopoda group" (Map 1). Among these, *P. sicula* and *P. tiehmii* are closest in geography and both, like the new species, are narrow endemics. *Pyrocoma tiehmii* differs from *P. sicula* and *P. eremica* in its taller habit and its sessile to subsessile glomerules of heads in a spike, each glomerule subtended by a foliaceous bract.



Map 1. Distribution of the *Pyrocoma eriopoda* group, including *P. eremica* (arrow).

PYRROCOMA EREMICA Nesom, **sp. nov.** **TYPE: Nevada.** Churchill Co.: 35 mi W of Austin [Edwards Creek Valley, on Hwy 50], alkali flat, 17 Aug 1938, *C.L. Hitchcock 4640* (holotype: WTU; isotype: WS). Figures 1-3.

Similar to *Pyrocoma tiehmii* in its persistent fibrous remnants of petiole bases, columnar inflorescence, few-flowered heads, and viscid phyllaries with long-acute phyllary apices; distinct in its shorter stature, racemoid inflorescence of short-pedunculate heads without subtending bracts, and smaller involucre.

Stems ascending-erect, 10–30 cm, glabrous. **Leaves:** basal lanceolate to oblanceolate, 3–6 cm long, gradually attenuate to a petiolar region 1/8–1/3 the leaf length, blades slightly thickened, without raised venation, 3–7 mm wide, faces glabrous, margins sharply spinulose-serrate, without white tufts at the base, fibrous remnants of petiole bases persistent, cauline mostly narrowly lanceolate, abruptly reduced in size from the basal and further diminishing in size distally, subclasping. **Heads** in a columnar-racemoid inflorescence 1–20 cm long, peduncles mostly 5–20 mm long. **Involucre** 5–6 mm wide (pressed), without immediately subtending bracts; phyllaries triangular-lanceolate with a narrowly acute to acuminate-acute apex, in ca. 3 series of unequal length, inner 5–6 mm long, green area along the whole length, green-herbaceous distally, gland-dotted (imbedded-glandular) and slightly viscid, with broad white margins. **Ray florets** 8–10, fertile, corollas 8–9 mm long, 1–1.5 mm wide, coiling. **Disc corollas** ca. 3 mm long. **Achenes** ca. 2 mm long, sparsely strigose. Known only from the type collection.



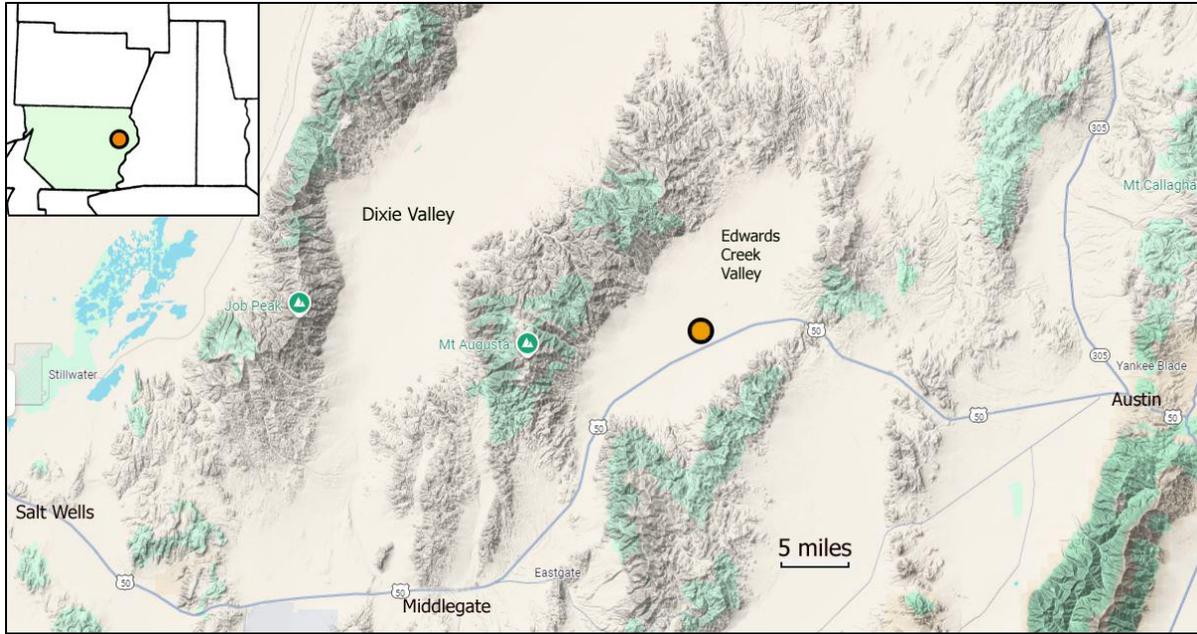
Figure 1. *Pyrocoma eremica*. Heads from the holotype (Fig. 2).



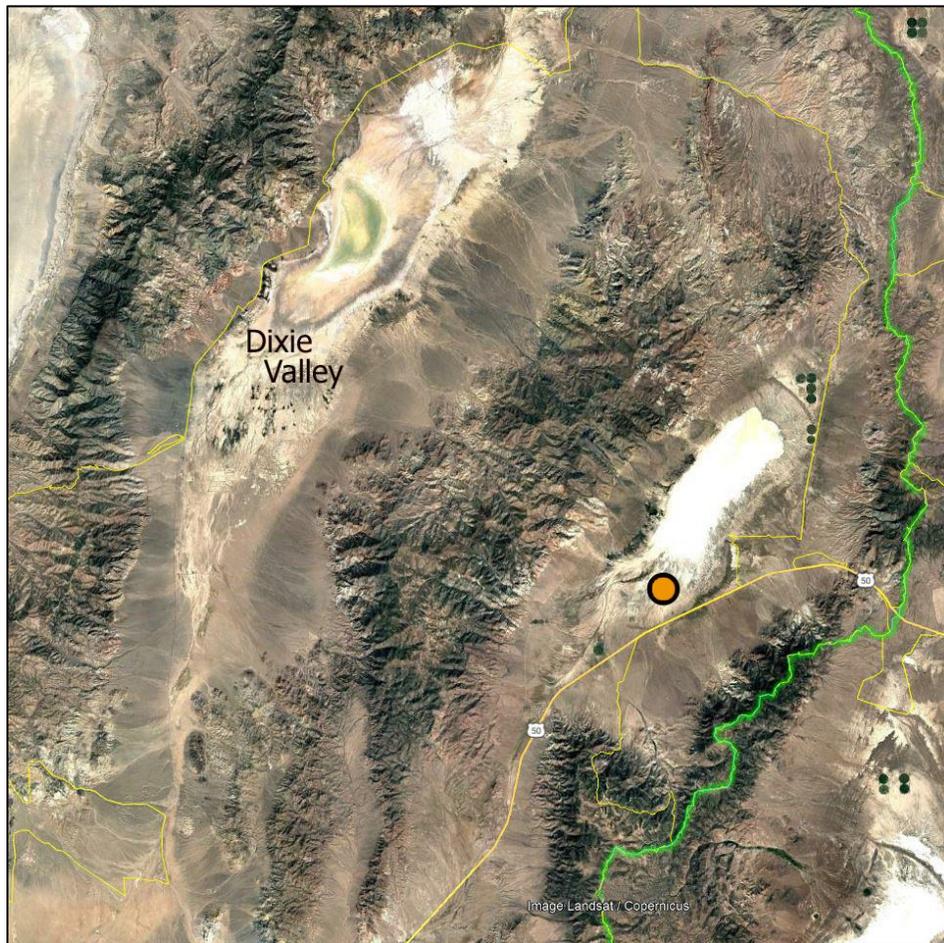
Figure 1. *Pyrocoma eremica*. Hitchcock 4640 (WTU), holotype.



Figure 3. *Pyrocoma eremica*. Hitchcock 4640 (WS), isotype.



Map 2. Locality of *Pyrrocoma eremica*. Churchill Co., Nevada, in the Edwards Creek Valley.



Map 3. Locality of *Pyrrocoma eremica*. Churchill Co., Nevada, at the south end of a large alkali flat. The green line is the boundary of Churchill and Lander counties.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

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