

# ZYGOPHYLLACEAE – CALTROP OR CREOSOTE-BUSH FAMILY

**Plant:** herbs, shrubs or trees

**Stem:** sometimes swollen at nodes

**Root:**

**Leaves:** basal and/or stem leaves, bifoliate or more commonly pinnately or bipinnately compound; stipules

**Flowers:** perfect, regular (actinomorphic); 4-5 sepals, 4-5 petals or none; stamens 2-3X no. of petals; ovary superior, 4-5 carpels

**Fruit:** capsule or schizocarp

**Other:** Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 22+ genera; 250+ species

# ZYGOPHYLLACEAE – CALTROP OR CREOSOTE-BUSH FAMILY

Creosote Bush; *Larrea tridentata* (DC.) Coville

Puncture Vine; *Tribulus terrestris* L. (Introduced)

# Creosote Bush

*Larrea tridentata* (DC.) Coville

Zygophyllaceae (Caltrop or Creosote-Bush Family)

Near Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada

Notes: shrub; 5-petaled flower, yellow, solitary from leaf axils; leaves thick, resinous, yellowish green and evergreen, compound (2 opposite leaflets); stem gray with dark nodes, stems arise from base; upright plant up to 4 m (usually much less); fruit globes, fussy capsule with 5 seeds; waste or disturbed ground; winter to summer

[V Max Brown, 2014]



# Puncture Vine

*Tribulus terrestris* L. (Introduced)  
Zygophyllaceae (Caltrop or Creosote-  
Bush Family)

Close Memorial Park, Springfield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Notes: vine, mat forming; 5-petaled flower, yellow,  
calyx green with abundant spreading hairs; leaves  
compound, 10-16 elliptical leaflets per leaf, densely  
hairy; stem with abundant spreading hairs; spiny  
fruits can be hurtful; waste or disturbed ground;  
summer

[V Max Brown, 2011]

