

*Gutierrezia sarothrae*

[Synonyms : *Brachyachyris euthamiae*, *Brachyris divaricata*, *Brachyris euthamiae*, *Galinsoga linearifolia*, *Gutierrezia corymbosa*, *Gutierrezia digyna*, *Gutierrezia divaricata*, *Gutierrezia diversifolia*, *Gutierrezia euthamiae*, *Gutierrezia fasciculata*, *Gutierrezia filifolia*, *Gutierrezia fulva*, *Gutierrezia furfuracea*, *Gutierrezia globosa*, *Gutierrezia goldmanii*, *Gutierrezia haenkei*, *Gutierrezia ionensis*, *Gutierrezia juncea*, *Gutierrezia laricina*, *Gutierrezia lepidota*, *Gutierrezia linearifolia*, *Gutierrezia linearis*, *Gutierrezia linoides*, *Gutierrezia longifolia*, *Gutierrezia longipappa*, *Gutierrezia myriocephala*, *Gutierrezia pomariensis*, *Gutierrezia sarothrae* var. *pomariensis*, *Gutierrezia scoparia*, *Gutierrezia tenuis*, *Solidago sarothrae*, *Xanthocephalum digynum*, *Xanthocephalum longipappum*, *Xanthocephalum petradoria*, *Xanthocephalum sarothrae*, *Xanthocephalum sarothrae* var. *pomariense*, *Xanthocephalum tenue*]

**BROOM SNAKEWEED** is a subshrub. Native to western North America it has small, yellow flowers.

It is also known as Broom-weed, Fireweed, Kindling weed, Lightning brush, Matchbrush, Matchbush, Matchweed, Rabbit brush, Rabbit weed, Snakeroot, Snakeweed, Turpentine weed, and Yellowtop.

Warning – authorities suggest that consumed in large quantities, especially the Spring growth, broom snakeweed can be poisonous for animals.

*Sarothrae* is derived from Greek *saro-* (broom) component.

The common names Broom snakeweed and Broom-weed illustrate the plant's use for local North American Indian tribes who bound the stems together to make brooms.

Broom snakeweed provided forage for livestock kept by the North American Tewa Indians. A leaf infusion was added to bathwater by the Isleta Indians for what records refer to as a refreshing soak

The Navajo North American tribe used the flower tops to obtain a yellow dye.

The Hopi tribe (and some of the Tewa) picked the yellow flowers for decorating their prayer sticks, and the wood in the form of charcoal or burnt as incense was used in ceremonial rituals by the Navajo Indians.

One of broom snakeweed's other detective uses is its recognition as a possible indicator of over-grazing. When land has been misused in this way the plant will often multiply rapidly. It has also been used in distinguishing bloodstains from those of similar appearance made by other materials.

Some North American Indian tribes such as the Dakota and Keresan used the plant in veterinary medicine, particularly for their horses. For some of the Navajo Indians the plant was able to aid the healing of cuts or bites on lambs and colts.

Medicinally, the Hopi North American Indians and some of the Navajo are said to have used broom snakeweed in remedies for upset stomachs. It was used by the latter and the Digueño Indians to treat diarrhoea and some of the Navajo (and the Isleta) also used it for fever. The Zuni and some of the Navajo tribe prescribed it for various urinary problems, and the Tewa Indians and some of the Navajo tribe turned to it to deal with some childbirth problems as well. It was a general remedy among the Blackfoot tribe for lung ailments, Tewa Indians took it for influenza, and some of the Dakota Indians and the

Shoshoni relied on it for easing colds. Some of the Dakota tribe prescribed it for coughs, and the Comanche administered it for whooping-cough. In the Tewa tribe it was a remedy for various period problems, the Paiute Indians applied it to nosebleeds, and the Navajo used it on wounds. For the Shoshoni it was a cure for measles, some of the Dakota tribe used it for vertigo, and the Navajo chose it for headaches. While the Keresan Indians turned to it for eye problems, the Tewa used it for ear disorders. It was a sedative for the Navajo, could cause sweating or vomiting as necessary for the Keresan (who could also take it as a purgative), and the Zuni prescribed it for fluid retention. Isleta Indians used it to treat venereal diseases, and among the Keresan and Paiute Indian tribes broom snakeweed could be used to ease rheumatism. It could neutralise insect stings for Navajo Indians, it could be applied to bruises according to the Isleta Indians, and the Navajo and Keresan tribes recognized it as a remedy for snake bites – the latter applying it particularly to rattlesnake bites.