



MOJAVE DESERT NATIVE PLANTS

BLADDERPOD

Cleomella arborea

This common shrub is unusual in that it can be found from deserts to the coast, below 4300 feet. Yellow flowers are on stalks and fruits are an inflated pod that, when dry, detaches and tumbles with the wind, dispersing the seeds.

It can be a large perennial to 5 feet and blooms February to May but might be found blooming almost any time of the year depending on rainfall. A small white butterfly, Becker's White (*Pontia beckerii*), lays its eggs on the bladder pod. The green and orange caterpillars can be seen on the leaves in the spring.

Bladderpod is a haven for pollinators, attracting bees, butterflies, and even hummingbirds. The Costa's hummingbird depends on the flowers as a food source in the winter.

