



## MOJAVE DESERT NATIVE PLANTS

### CATCLAW

*Senegalia greggii*

Well named, formidable thorns shaped like a cat's claw cover branch and stem of this shrub. It grows to 7 feet (2 m) tall and almost as wide. A mature plant can be 100 years old, or more. It is found below 4600 feet (1400 m).

Gray-green leaves appear in May, followed by light yellow, fuzzy bottle-brush shaped flowers. The fruit is a flat, twisted, brown pod that appears in August.

Desert mistletoe (*Phoradendron californicum*), a parasite, can often be found growing on catclaw. A black-crested bird, Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), visits the branches of catclaw to eat seeds of the mistletoe, and then deposits them, through its droppings, on other trees of the same species, spreading this parasite.

