

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDASC050P0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Metastelma mexicanum* (Brandeg.) Fishbein & R. A. Levin
COMMON NAME: Wiggins Milkweed Vine, Milkweed Vine
SYNONYMS: *Basistelma mexicanum* (Brandeg.) Bartlett; *Cynanchum wigginsii* Shinnery; *Melinia mexicana* Brandeg.
FAMILY: Asclepiadaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Fishbein, Mark & Levin, Rachel. 1997. Madrono 44: 270.

TYPE LOCALITY: Mexico: Sinaloa, about 30 mi east of Culican, near Durango border, Cerro Colorado.

TYPE SPECIMEN: GH! T. S. Brandege sn. 1904.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Similar to *Metastelma arizonica*.

DESCRIPTION: Vine with many slender, twining stems. **Leaves short-petioled or subsessile, narrow, like slender arrowhead**, with backward-pointing lobe on each side of base, about 10.0-15.0 mm (0.4-0.6 in.) long and 2.0-3.0 mm (0.08-0.12 in.) wide. **Typical milkweed flowers**, few per cluster, scattered along stem. Flower parts white-creamy, about 3.0 mm (0.12 in.) long. Fruit narrow, pod-like, about 3.0 cm (1.2 in.) long.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: Stigma long-beaked; leaves short-petioled or subsessile, long, narrow; corolla white-pilose within. Could be confused with *Janusia*. However, *Janusia* does not have milky sap or stems that twine around itself.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Line drawing (USFWS)

TOTAL RANGE: Southeastern Arizona to southern Sonora, Mexico. (Mexican plant that has expanded into Arizona.)

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Santa Cruz County: around Nogales and Ruby, Sycamore Canyon area, Patagonia Mountains; Cochise County: Mule Mountains, range extension to Sabino Canyon, Bisbee area; Pima County: Baboquivari Mountains, Coyote Mountains and Catalina Mountains.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

- GROWTH FORM:** Perennial vine (herbaceous vine with woody base).
- PHENOLOGY:** Flowers with summer rains.
- BIOLOGY:** Unknown.
- HABITAT:** Open slopes within open oak woodland on granitic soils over Juniper Flats granite.
- ELEVATION:** 3,500 - 5,550 ft (1067 - 1693 m).
- EXPOSURE:**
- SUBSTRATE:** Various.
- PLANT COMMUNITY:** Oak woodland.
- POPULATION TRENDS:** Appears to be stable. Insects are threat. Not browse plant. Depends on vegetation for habit so plant would be affected by disturbance to habitat.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

- ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None (USDI, FWS 1996)
[Category 2 USDI, FWS 1985]
[3C USDI, FWS 1983]
[Category 1 USDI, FWS 1980]
- STATE STATUS:** None
- OTHER STATUS:** Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1990, 1999)
- MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Rare.
- CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN:** Known from Goodding Research Natural Area, Sycamore Canyon.
- SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Survey/relocate old sites. (Botanists unable to relocate population at known locality in Sycamore Canyon in 1989 and 1990).
- LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BLM - Tucson Field Office; USFS - Coronado National Forest; Private.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**LITERATURE CITATIONS:**

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- Wentworth, T.R. 1978. Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science. 13:18.

MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

- Jack Kaiser - Retired (USDA), Nogales, Arizona.
- Tom Van Devender - Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson, Arizona.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Kearney and Peebles (1960): "Not known in Arizona but the type was collected at Santa Cruz, Sonora, only a few miles south of the Arizona border."

Van Devender: Only Mexican collection is from Palm Canyon, about 17 miles southeast of Magdalena.

Revised: 1991-11-10 (PLW)
1991-12-04 (SR)
1994-10-10 (PLW)
1998-01-06(SSS)
2000-03-03 (JCP)

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