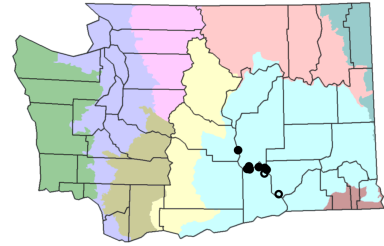


***Aliciella leptomeria*** (A. Gray) J.M. Porter  
synonym: *Gilia leptomeria* A. Gray var. *leptomeria*  
Great Basin gilia  
Polemoniaceae - phlox family  
status: State Threatened, BLM strategic  
rank: G5 / S1



**General Description:** Adapted from Hickman (1993): Annual with 1 to many thin, spreading branches, 7-23 cm tall, stems covered with glands and minute, fine hairs. Basal leaves rosette-forming, appressed to ground, 1-6 cm long, lanceolate or strap-shaped, lobes rounded with short points at the tips. Stem leaves linear, small, entire.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers at ends of the branches, 1-3 per stem. Sepals 2-3 mm long, fused into a tube, membranous between the thicker ribs; lobes with thickened tips. Corolla tubular, 4-7 mm long. Tube threadlike, purple, exserted from the calyx; throat yellow, short, wider than the tube; lobes 5, white inside, purple outside, with a squared-off apex and abruptly sharp-pointed tip. Pollen white. Flowers in May.

**Fruits:** Narrowly ovoid capsule 3-5 mm long. Seeds many, not gelatinous when wet.

**Identification Tips:** The description of *Gilia leptomeria* in Hitchcock et al. (1955-1969) is actually a description of *Aliciella lottiae*\*. Hickman (1993) provides an updated key. *Gilia sinuata*, *Aliciella lottiae*, and *A. leptomeria* all have leaves in basal rosettes and are found in sandy areas. *A. leptomeria* is distinguished by corolla lobes with abruptly pointed tips; linear, entire, minute stem leaves; and basal leaves with fine, short hairs and a reddish cast. *A. lottiae* has corolla lobes that are not abruptly pointed, a long-tapered corolla throat, and broader, bright green basal leaves with a hairless, shining upper surface. *Gilia sinuata* has a longer corolla (7-12 mm), and stem leaves that are wider, toothed, and clasping.

**Range:** Great Basin from CA to WA, ID, NM, and CO.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Open habitats in semiarid regions, on dry bluffs or in sandy swales. Substrates are often hard, gravelly or sandy, fine reddish to blackish basalt soils, or fine nonbasalt gravel with caliche fragments. Elevations in WA: 145-350 m (470-1140 ft). Associates include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*), and sinuate gilia (*Gilia sinuata*).

**Comments:** This species is also rare in WY.

**References:** Day 1993; Hickman 1993; Porter 1998; Porter & Johnson 2000.



photo by Joe Arnett



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