

New Mexico Milkweeds

All information and pictures came from the SEINet.org web site unless otherwise stated.

Maps are taken from Biota of North America Project (BONAP.org)

This pamphlet was put together for the New Mexico Native Plant Society, March 2018.

M.J. Corl. March 2018





Monarch



Queen

Asclepiadaceae
Milkweed Family

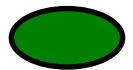
Perennial, erect or twining shrubs, usually with milky juice. Flowers actinomorphic (radial symmetry). Sepals 5, petals 5, Connate. A corona of extra petaloid parts may be present and sometimes mistaken for the corolla: stamens 5, united around the stigmatic area. Pistils 2, superior, of 2 separate carpels. Fruit a pair of follicles, the seeds typically with a tuft of silky hairs at one end.

Extracted from "Flora Neomexicana"

By
Kelly Allred &
Robert DeWitt Ivy

Map Key

Dark Green species present and Native



Light green Species present and not rare



Yellow Species present and rare



Hatched green Presence questionable



Asclepias arenaria
Sand Milkweed

General: Native, perennial, An erect stout plant, to 0.7 m tall, from a thick rootstock; the stems are usually solitary and covered in fuzzy whitish hairs.

Leaves: Opposite leaves appear woolly, are broadly oval, and appear almost square with a prominent mid-vein, they are less than four inches long and three inches wide and tipped with a small sharp point

Flowers: flowering umbel at the end that has greenish cream flowers tinged with purple. Few to several umbels grow out of the leaf axils in the upper half of the plant, often clustered tightly against the stem. The flowers are greenish with cream to white hoods.

Fruits: Produces a smooth upright pod that is 2.5-3.5 inches long and no more than an inch wide.

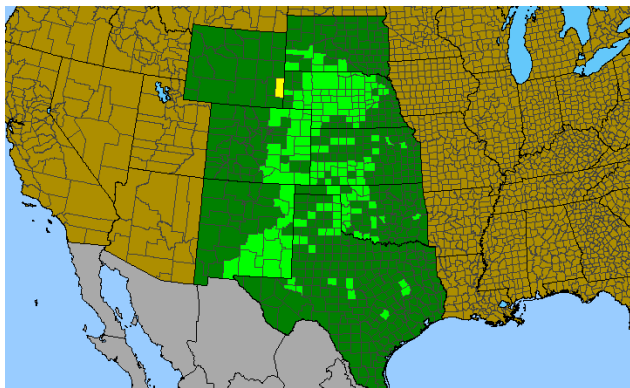
Habitat: Found primarily on sandy soils, from 500 to 6,500 ft (152-1981 m); flowers May through August.

Distribution: Found in southeastern New Mexico and West Texas along the edge of the Chihuahuan Desert and north through the Great Plains to South Dakota, as well as south into Chihuahua.

Editor: AHazelton 2015

Truncate - cut off nearly straight at the end

Umbels - an inflorescence in which the divergent pedicels or rays spring from the same point. Simple umbel is when each ray terminates in an inflorescence.



Glossary

Adnate— attached to another part

Adventive- -Introduced accidentally

Anthesis—the period of full expansion of the flower

Apiculate - ending abruptly in a short point

Asclepias - is the name of the greek god of healing (Asklepios)

Calyx - the outer covering of the flower, consisting of sepals, either free or united.

Connate—when parts of the same series are united so closely they cannot be separated without tearing.

Conduplicate—leaves folded together along the long axis

Cordate - applied to the base of the leaf when it is more or less deeply notched

Corolla - the inner envelope of the flower consisting of petals either single or united.

Corpusculum - a small body

Cuneate—of the base of the leaf, tapering gradually, wedge shaped.

Exserted - projecting beyond

Glabrate - hairless

Gynostegium - Anther plus the stigma - both male and female parts. Anther contains the pollen, stigma is the part that receives the pollen.

Pedice - stalk of each individual flower or inflorescence Pedicel - stalk of each individual flower or inflorescence

Peduncle - a general name for a flower stalk bearing either a solitary flower or a cluster. The common stalk of pedicellate or sessile flowers.

Petioles - stalk of a leaf

Pilosulose— hairy with long simple hairs

Pollinium - a body of pollen grains cohering into a single mass. Found in all Asclepias

Retuse - notched, emarginate

Revolute—leaves rolled backward along long axis, toward the mid-rib

Rotate— wheel shaped, as a corolla

Saccate - pouched

Sessile - without a stalk

Subcordate— somewhat less than cordate (heart shaped at the lower end of leaf)

Suffrutescent—Base of stem somewhat woody, does not die down each year.



Patrick Alexander



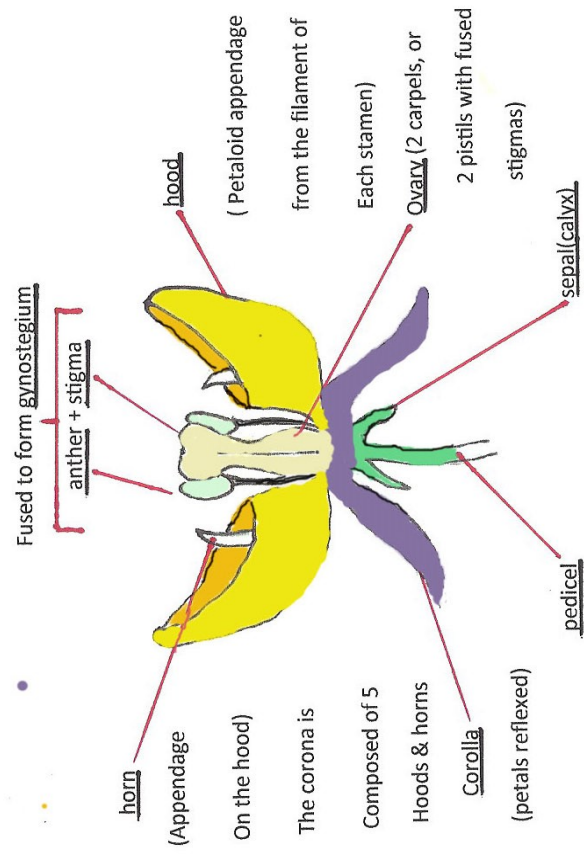
Patrick Alexander



Patrick Alexander



Max Licher



Asclepias asperula
Antelope Horns Milkweed
Spider Milkweed

General: Perennial, native, vegetative parts typically roughened with a fine pubescence; stems ascending to rather decumbent, unbranched, 10-80 cm tall; milky sap

Leaves: irregularly alternate, the petioles 2-11 mm long, the blades lanceolate to less often linear-lanceolate, 5-19 cm long, 6-27 mm broad, acute or infrequently obtuse at the base, long attenuate to an acute apex

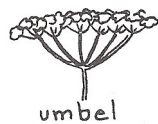
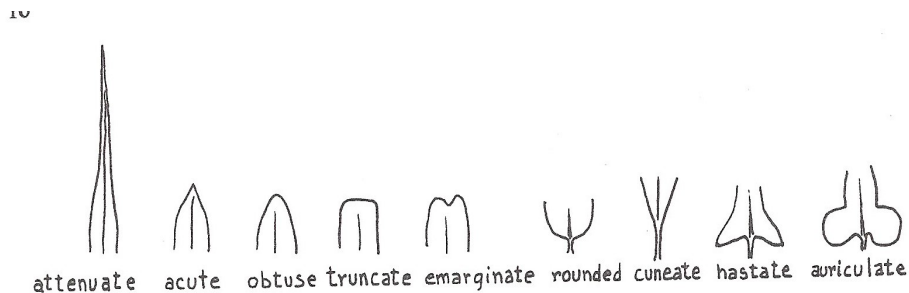
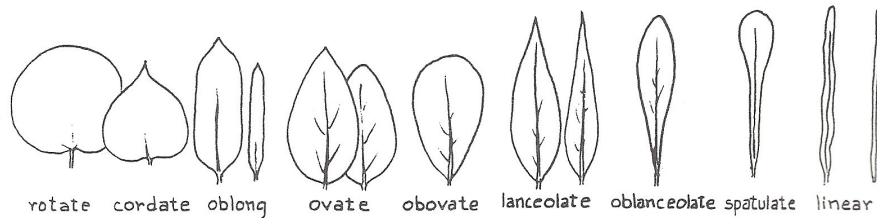
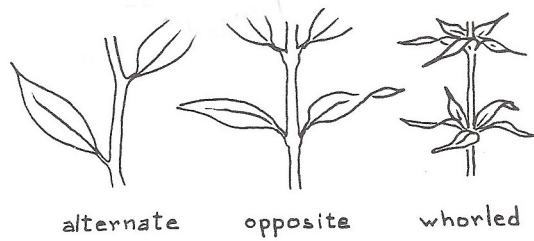
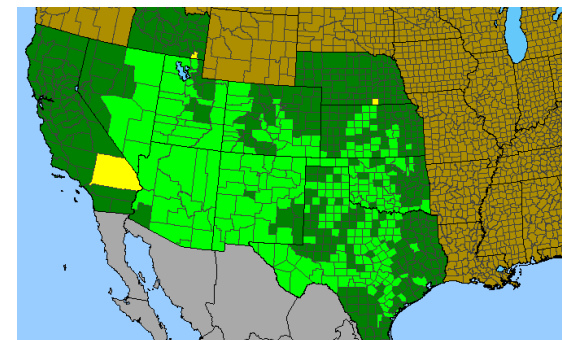
Inflorescence: Umbels solitary and terminal, 4-7 cm broad, sessile or more often long-pedunculate with the peduncles to 20(-30) cm long

Flowers: large; calyx lobes 3-6 mm long; corolla greenish, uncommonly purple-tipped, bowl-shaped, the lobes curved-ascending, 9-12 mm long; hoods sessile and attached along the entire height of the column, oblong-tubular, "J"- to "C"-shaped, spreading-descending at the base and gradually curving upward near the middle, the upper portion erect to incurved, ca. 5-8 mm long, 2-2.6 mm broad at the median bulge, about as high as the gynostegium, the horns radially flat, attached in the top of the hoods, triangular, entirely included within the hood margins; anther wings 1.8-2 mm long; corpusculum 0.3-0.4 mm long, the pollinia 1.2-1.4 mm long

Fruit: follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 5-10 cm long

Habitat: desert mountains and plains

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. Asclepiadaceae. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



All drawings taken from Robert DeWitt Ivy

Asclepias brachystephana

Short Crowned Milkweed

General: Perennial, native. Herb, 20-50 cm tall; STEMS ascending, much branched below, finely short woolly, especially on younger growth; with milky sap.

Leaves: opposite, the petioles 2-8 mm long, the blades narrowly lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 3-13 cm long, 5-20 mm broad, long attenuate to an acute apex, obtuse to acute at the base, rather persistently white woolly above, glabrate below

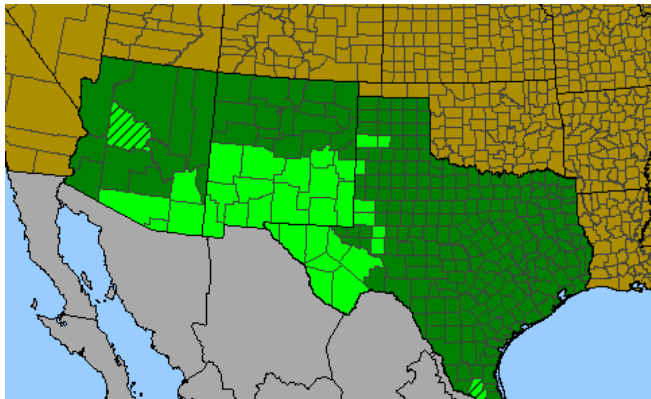
Inflorescence: UMBELS lateral from many of the upper nodes, 2-4 cm broad, the peduncles 0.5-1.5 cm long, woolly, the pedicels white woolly

Flowers: small; calyx lobes 2-3 mm long; corolla purple, the lobes 5-6 mm long; hoods drying yellow brown, erect-ascending, hemispheric, widening upward to a truncate to 3-lobed rim, the triangular marginal lobes slightly higher than the rounded median lobe, 1.5-2.6 mm long, 1.4-2 mm broad, ca. 1-2 mm shorter than the gynostegium, the horns attached near the middle of the hoods, tangentially flat, tongue-shaped, erect, short-exserted to about the height of the marginal lobes; anther wings 1.6-1.8 mm long; corpusculum 0.2-0.3 mm long, the pollinia 1-1.1 mm long

Fruit: follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 4-7 cm long, more or less conspicuously purple-striped

Habitat: Desert mts. and plains, grasslands, roadsides; 1300-2000 m (4200-6500 ft); May-Sep

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



Funastrum cyananchoides

Fringed Twine vine

Plant: Perennial herbaceous vine; stems glabrate or sparsely pubescent at the nodes; milky sap

Leaves: ovate to mostly lanceolate or linear, cordate to hastate, sagittate or truncate at the base, rarely obtuse, the margins flat, 1-8(-10) cm long, sparsely pubescent to glabrate on both surfaces, the petioles 0.2-4 cm long

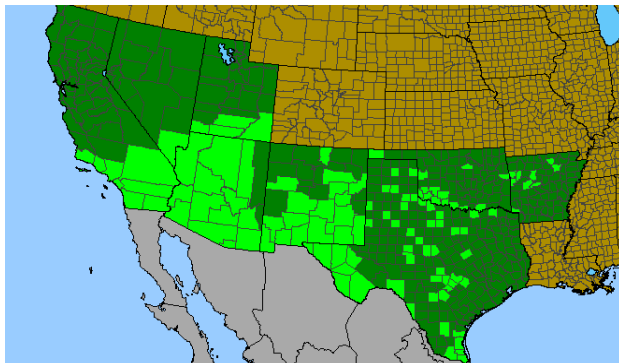
Inflorescence: Umbels 5-30 flowered, the peduncles mostly 1-6 cm long, the pedicels with spreading or curved hairs

Flowers: 5-7 mm long; calyx pubescent to subpilose, the lobes ovate to ovate-elliptic, mostly 2-3 mm long, less than 3 times longer than broad; corolla rotate to broadly cup-shaped, bright purplish to white, pubescent outside, minutely so inside, the tube 1.5-2.5 mm long, the lobes ovate to ovate-triangular, 4-6 mm long; crown ring free from the base of the vesicles, 0.2-0.5 mm high, the vesicles arising from a short column less than 1 mm above its union with the corolla tube, ca. 1.5-2.5 mm long in the upper portion, longer than broad, rounded at the top and smoothly contoured on the tangential surface, indistinctly constricted at the base; column 0.5-1 mm high beneath the anther wings, these 1-1.2 mm long; corpusculum ca. 0.2 mm long, the pollinia 0.7-0.8 mm long

Fruit: Follicles single, lanceolate-attenuate, 6-12 cm long

Habitat: Desert washes and slopes, canyons, floodplains, disturbed sites **Notes:** pollen in sacks (pollinia); seeds with hairs attached

References: E. Sundell. *Asclepiadaceae*. JANAS 27:169-187. J.C. Hickman, ed. *The Jepson Manual*. ASU specimens.



M.J. Corl



M. J. Corl

Asclepias engelmanniana

Engelmann's Milkweed

General: perennial herb; stems erect, typically unbranched, 60-120(-150) cm tall, glabrous to rather glaucous; milky sap

Leaves: irregularly alternate to approximate, sessile, the blades linear, 5-25 cm long, 1-8 mm broad, attenuate at apex and base, glabrous on both surfaces, or with a few hairs on the margins and midvein below

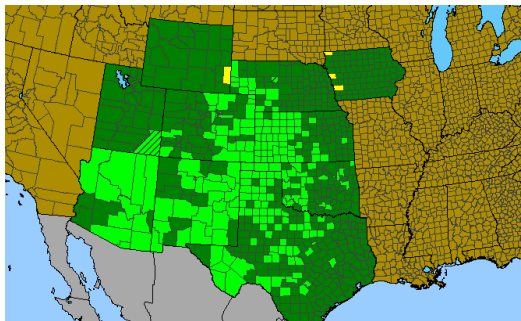
Inflorescence: UMBELS lateral in the upper portion of the stem, spreading-pubescent, 2-4 cm broad, sessile or the peduncles to 3.5 cm long

Flowers: small; calyx lobes 3.5-5 mm long; corolla greenish or flushed with pale purple, the lobes 5-7 mm long; hoods sessile, curved-ascending, ovoid-oblong, 2.2-3 mm long, 0.9-1.5 mm broad in the middle, half to two-thirds as long as the gynostegium, truncate to retuse at the top, rounded-saccate at the base and with a pair of wing-like, rounded lobes spreading at right angles from the margins, the horns digitate, erect, attached near the middle of the hoods, ca. 1 mm long and scarcely exerted, or concealed within the hoods and variously reduced in length, or entirely absent and represented by a more or less distinct vertical ridge at the base of the back wall of the hoods; anther wings 2-2.4 mm long; corpusculum 0.6 mm long, the pollinia 1.2-1.3 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 7-12 cm long

Habitat: Creeks, canyons, open woodlands; 1050-2200 m (3500-7200 ft); Jun-Aug

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



Sarcostemma (Funastrum) Crispum

Climbing Milkweed, Wavy leaf Milkweed

Plant: Perennial herbaceous vine; stems with downward curving hairs; milky sap

Leaves: lanceolate to mostly narrowly lanceolate to linear, hastate or sagittate to truncate at the base, attenuate to the apex, the margins (especially of younger leaves) more or less conspicuously undulate, 3-10 cm long, pubescent above, the midvein often whitened by a mat of hairs, the lower surface somewhat more sparsely hairy, the petioles 2-15 mm long

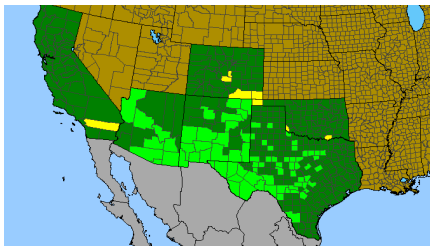
Inflorescence: Umbels 4-10 flowered, the peduncles mostly 1-5 cm long, the pedicels with mostly curved or appressed hairs

Flowers: 6-10 mm long; calyx lobes lanceolate-attenuate, 2.5-5 mm long, more than 3 times longer than wide, pubescent both outside and toward the tips inside; corolla broadly cup-shaped, green to purplish and pubescent outside, dark purple (rarely green), smooth and glabrous inside, or minutely hairy at the base of the crown ring, the tube ca. 2-3 mm long, the lobes oblong to ovate-elliptic, 5-9 mm long; crown ring free from the base of the vesicles, 0.6-1.1 mm high, the vesicles arising from the column ca. 1 mm above its union with the corolla tube, ca. 1.5 mm long in the upper portion, mostly as broad as or broader than long, flattened at the top and saccate below on the tangential surface, the lower portion constricted to a stalk-like base; column well developed, ca. 2 mm high beneath the anther wings, these 0.8-1 mm long; corpusculum ca. 0.25 mm long, the pollinia 0.7-0.9 mm long

Fruit: Follicles single, lanceolate-fusiform, long attenuate, 9-16 cm long

Habitat: 900-1600 m (2900-5200 ft); Apr-Aug

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. Asclepiadaceae. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



Leslie Landrum



Max Licher

Asclepias emoryi

Emory's Milkweed

General: Native, perennial, forb/herb

Leaves:

Inflorescence:

Flowers:

Ecology:

Reference: USDA data

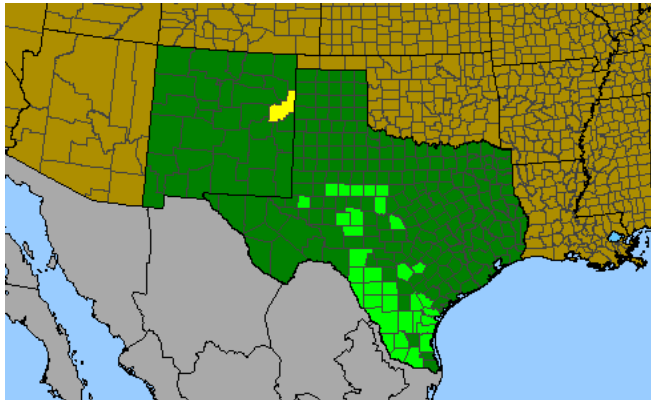


Photo by W. S. Alverson



Photo by D. Busemeyer



Photo by D. Busemeyer

Asclepias viridiflora **Green Comet Milkweed**

Plant: perennial herb; stems erect or ascending, typically unbranched, 10-50 cm tall; milky sap

Leaves: opposite to irregularly alternate, the petioles 2-7 mm long, the blades narrowly lanceolate to linear, 5-14 cm long, 2-17 mm broad, attenuate to an acute apex, acute to obtuse at the base

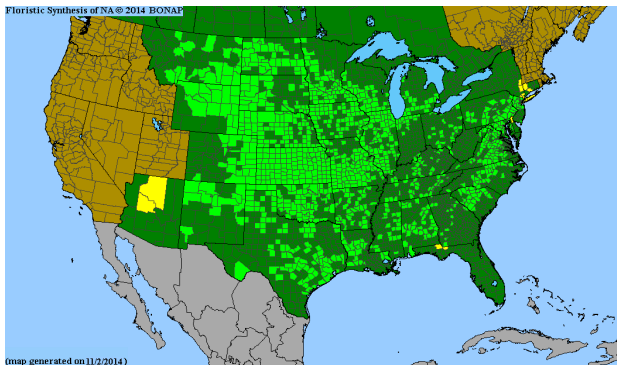
Inflorescence: Umbels lateral at 1 to few of the upper nodes, 3-4 cm broad, the peduncles 0.4-1.5 cm long

Flowers: small; calyx lobes 3-4 mm long; corolla greenish, the lobes 5-7 mm long; hoods greenish yellow, erect and appressed to the anthers, ellipsoid-oblong, obtuse-rounded at the top, 2.8-3.8 mm long, 1-1.3 mm broad in the middle, ca. 1 mm shorter than the gynostegium, the horns absent; anther wings 2-2.6 mm long along their entire length, the upper portion 1.4-1.7 mm long; corpusculum 0.3-0.4 mm long, the pollinia conspicuously long attenuate above, 1.6-2 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 7-15 cm long

Habitat: Open pine forests; apparently rare; 1600-2150 m (5300-7000 ft); May-Aug

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



Asclepia glaucescens

Nodding Milkweed

General: Herbs, **Stems:** erect, unbranched, 40-80 cm tall, glabrous to rather glaucous.

Leaves: opposite or the bracteal leaves subtending the peduncles alternate, sessile, or the petioles to 2 mm long, the blades broadly oblong to ovate-elliptic, 3-16 cm long, (1-)2-7 cm broad, shallowly cordate and more or less clasping at the base, obtuse to rounded at the apex, apiculate, glabrous on both surfaces, glaucous beneath.

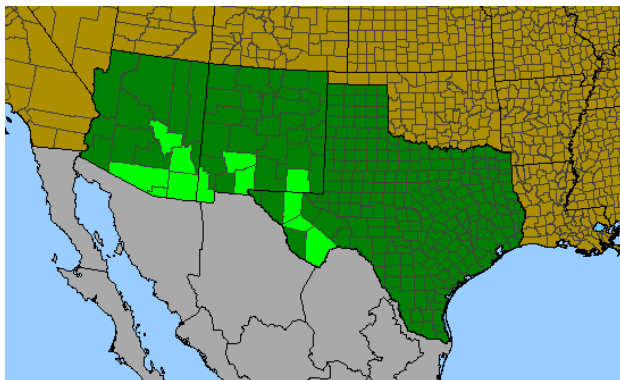
Umbles: 1 to several, subterminal at the uppermost nodes, finely pubescent, 5-7 cm broad, the peduncles 3-15 cm long.

Flowers: large; calyx lobes 5-8 mm long; corolla green or with a touch of purple on the tips outside, tardily reflexed-spreading, the lobes 9-12 mm long; hoods yellowish with white margins, sessile and attached along almost the entire height of the column, ovoid-oblong and more or less - J"-shaped, horizontally spreading-saccate from the base, curved upward near the middle to an erect, truncate apex, ca. 4-5 mm long, 2-4 mm broad at the top, slightly shorter than the gynostegium, the horns radially flat, attached the full length of the hoods, triangular to sickle-shaped, mostly concealed within the hoods; anther wings 2.4-2.8 mm long; corpusculum 0.8-1 mm long, the pollinia 1.1-1.3 mm long.

Follicles: erect on deflexed pedicels, 11-15 cm long.

Habitat: Canyons, rocky stream beds, open woodlands, mts. of se AZ: Cochise, Gila, Graham, Pima, Santa Cruz, cos.; 1200-2150 m (3900-7100 ft); Jul-Sep; s NM, sw TX; Mex. to Guatemala

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



Asclepias verticillata

Whorled Milkweed

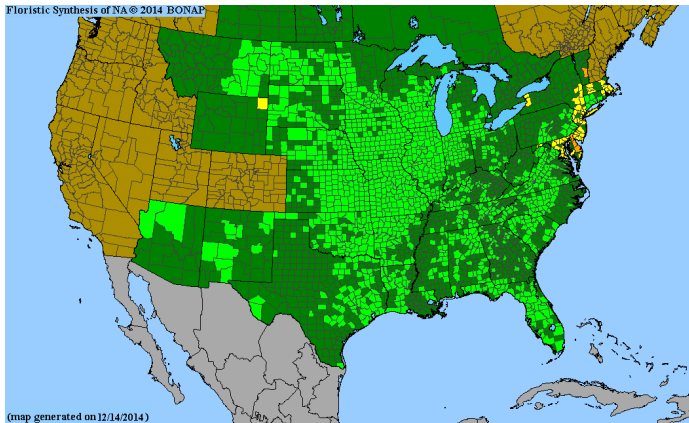
General: Stems slender, erect from a cluster of fibrous roots, 2-5 dm, simple to the inflorescence, pubescent in lines;

Leaves: very numerous in whorls of 3-6, narrowly linear, 2-5 cm 1-2mm, revolute; umbels several from the upper nodes; peduncles 1-3 cm;

Flowers: white or greenish; cor-lobes 4-5 mm; hoods somewhat divergent, 1.5-2 mm, about equaling the gynostegium, their margins entire; horns subulate, much surpassing the hoods, inflexed over the gynostegium;

Fruit: slender, erect on erect pedicels, 7-10 cm; $2n=22$.

Habitat: Fields, roadsides, upland woods, and prairies; Mass. to Fla., w. to Sask., Kans., and Ariz. June-Aug.



Asclepias halli
Hall's Milkweed

Plant: perennial herb; stems erect or ascending, typically unbranched, 30-50 cm tall

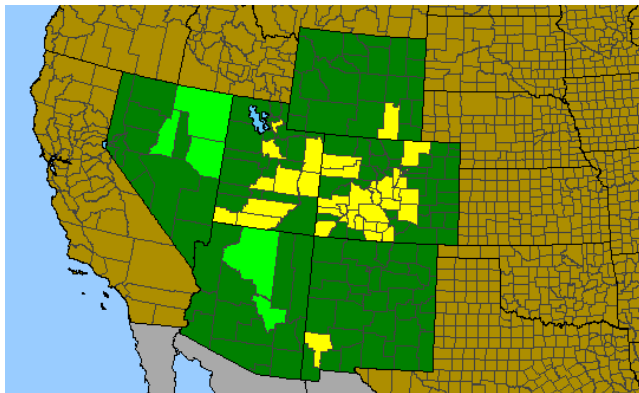
Leaves: irregularly alternate to approximate, the petioles 5-11 mm long, the blades lanceolate to narrowly ovate, 6-13 cm long, 2-4.5 cm broad, attenuate to a broadly acute to rounded-apiculate apex, rounded or obtuse at the base, pubescent to glabrate on both surfaces

Inflorescence: Umbels lateral and terminal, typically clustered at the uppermost nodes, sometimes compound, 4-6 cm broad, the peduncles 1-6 cm long

Flowers: rather large; calyx lobes 3-4 mm long; corolla purple to pink, the lobes ca. 6-7 mm long; hoods yellowish white, ascending, obovoid-ellipsoid, more or less abruptly narrowed above the middle, obtuse-rounded at the top, 5.5-6.5 mm long, 1.6-2.1 mm broad, ca. 3 mm longer than the gynostegium, the horns attached near the base of the hoods, radially flat, sickle-shaped, exerted 1-2 mm and arching over the stigma head; anther wings 1.5-1.8 mm long; corpusculum 0.3-0.4 mm long, the pollinia 1.3-1.4 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 8-12 cm long.

Habitat: 1850-2450 m (6000-8000 ft); Jun-Aug



Asclepias tuberosa

Butterfly Milkweed

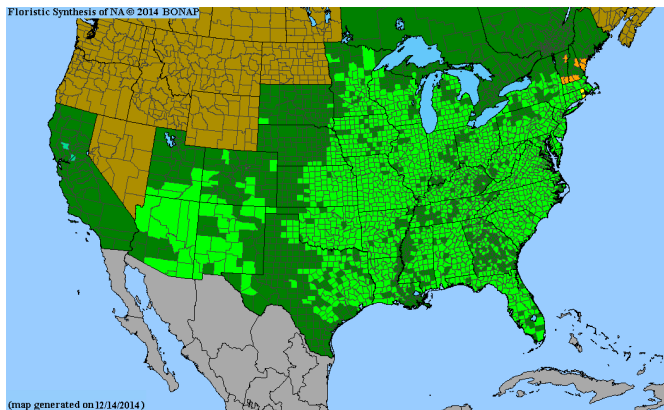
Plant: perennial herb; stems erect or ascending, branching only in the inflorescence, 20-80 cm tall

Leaves: irregularly alternate, usually crowded, distinctly short-petiolate, the petioles 1-2 mm long, the blades lanceolate, linear-lanceolate or narrowly oblong, 2-10 cm long, -15(-22) mm broad, acute apically, acute to mostly obtuse, rounded, truncate, or subhastate at the base, pilose beneath particularly on the veins, pilose to somewhat hirsute above; no milky sap

Inflorescence: Umbels lateral and subterminal, simple to irregularly compound, 3-5 cm broad, typically clustered at the uppermost nodes forming a more or less flat-topped to rounded secondary inflorescence, the peduncles indistinct to mostly 1-6 cm long **Flowers:** medium size; calyx lobes 2-3 mm long; corolla bright yellow or orange, the lobes 6-8 mm long; hoods orange to yellow, erect or ascending, lanceolate to oblong, attenuate above the middle to a rounded apex, 4-5.5 mm long, 1-2 mm broad, ca. 1.5-3 mm longer than the gynostegium, the horns attached below the middle of the hoods, digitate, exserted 1-2 mm and more or less arching over the stigma head; anther wings 1.8-2 mm long; corpusculum 0.2-0.3 mm long, the pollinia 1.2-1.4 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 7-13 cm long

Habitat: Occupies ponderosa pine savannas in mountain foothills, 6000 to 8000 ft.



Asclepias hypoleucas

Mahogany Milkweed

General: Perennial herb; stems erect, unbranched, 30-100 cm tall, short woolly, especially above

Leaves: opposite, the petioles 3-15 mm long, the blades elliptic-oblong to mostly broadly elliptic or ovate, 4-15 cm long, 2-10 cm broad, obtuse to rounded, truncate or shallowly cordate at the base, broadly acute to rounded at the apex, apiculate, green and glabrous to sparsely hairy above, persistently short woolly beneath, the surface conspicuously whitened from the dense mat of curly hairs

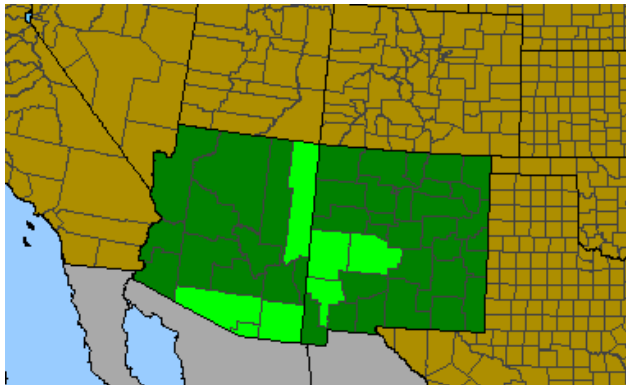
Inflorescence: Umbels terminal to subterminal or lateral at the uppermost nodes, 5-8 cm broad, the peduncles 2-15 cm long

Flowers: large; calyx lobes 3.5-5 mm long; corolla greenish outside, purplish inside, the lobes 8-11 mm long; hoods purple, erect-ascending, oblong-attenuate, obtuse-rounded at the apex, 6-10 mm long, 4-8 mm longer than the gynostegium, the margins with a pair of sharp teeth ca. 2 mm long arching over the stigma head, the horns absent; anther wings 2-2.4 mm long; corpusculum ca. 0.5 mm long, the pollinia 0.9-1.1 mm long.

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 8-12 cm long

Habitat: Oak and pine woodlands to the ponderosa zone, mts; 1850-2550 m (6000-8300 ft); Jun-Sep

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



Asclepias subverticillata

Horsetail Milkweed

Plant: Perennial rhizomatous herb, erect or ascending, unbranched or branching, frequently also with dwarf, lateral shoots in at least some of the leaf axils, 20-100 cm tall, glabrous or finely pubescent above; milky sap

Leaves: whorled, mostly 3 or 4 per node, subsessile, the petioles 1-4 mm long, the blades linear, 2-12 cm long, ca. 1-4 mm broad, attenuate and acute at apex and base, essentially glabrous on both surfaces, the margins more or less revolute

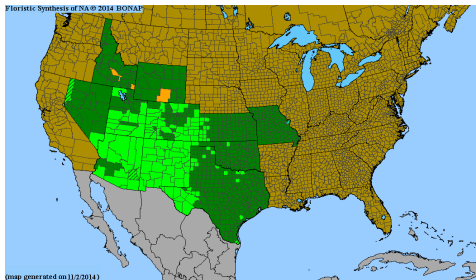
Inflorescence: Umbels lateral to subterminally crowded, single or paired at the upper nodes, 2-4 cm broad, the peduncles mostly 1-5 cm long

Flowers: small; calyx lobes ca. 2 mm long; corolla white, greenish, or grayish purple, the lobes 4-5 mm long; hoods white or yellowish, erect-ascending, quadrate to oblong-obovoid, 1.4-2.4 mm long, 0.8-1.6 mm broad at the truncate to oblique rim, about as long as to 1 mm shorter than the gynostegium, the horns radially flat, attached near the base of the hoods, exerted 1-2 mm and arching over the stigma head; anther wings 1.4-1.6 mm long; corpusculum ca. 0.25 mm long, the pollinia 0.8-1.2 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on erect pedicels, 6-12 cm long

Ecology: Open woodlands, grasslands, stream terraces, invading roadsides, pastures, yards and gardens; 950-2400 m (3100-7800 ft); Jun-Sep

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.





Patrick Alexander



Tony Frates



Patrick Alexander



Max Licher



Max Licher

Asclepias speciose

Showy Milkweed

Plant: perennial herb; stems erect, unbranched, 40-100 cm tall, densely white woolly to pubescent when young, more or less glabrate below

Leaves: opposite, the petioles 4-10 mm long, the blades ovate to broadly lanceolate, 7-20 cm long, 2-9 cm broad, obtuse to broadly rounded or rarely subcordate at the base, attenuate to an obtuse or acute apex, pubescent above, rather woolly beneath

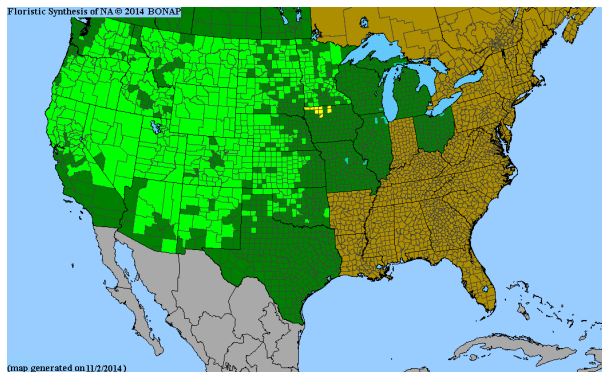
Inflorescence: Umbels lateral at the upper nodes, 4-9 cm broad, the peduncles 2-11 cm long

Flowers: large; calyx lobes 4-6 mm long; corolla purplish, the lobes 9-11 mm long; hoods drying yellow-brown, ascending, ovoid-attenuate, more or less abruptly narrowed near the middle, 10-14 mm long, 5-10 mm longer than the gynostegium, the horns attached near the base of the hoods, radially flat, exerted 1-2 mm and in-curved over the stigma head; anther wings 2.4-3 mm long; corpusculum 0.7-0.8 mm long, the pollinia 1.3-1.6 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 11-13 cm long, the surface typically with soft, elongate tubercles

Ecology: Mountain meadows and open woodlands, streamsides, spreading to roadsides and other disturbed sites; 1500-2600 m (5000-8500 ft); Jun-Aug

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. *J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci.* Volume 27, 169-187.



Asclepias incarnate

Swamp Milkweed

General: Perennial herb, tall, stout; stems erect, branching from the upper nodes, to 150 cm tall, finely pubescent in lines above the petioles; milky sap

Leaves: opposite, the petioles 3-8 mm long, the blades linear-lanceolate to narrowly elliptic- or oblong-lanceolate, 7-15 cm long, 5-10 mm broad, attenuate at apex, attenuate to abruptly acute at base, sparsely pubescent above and on the veins below

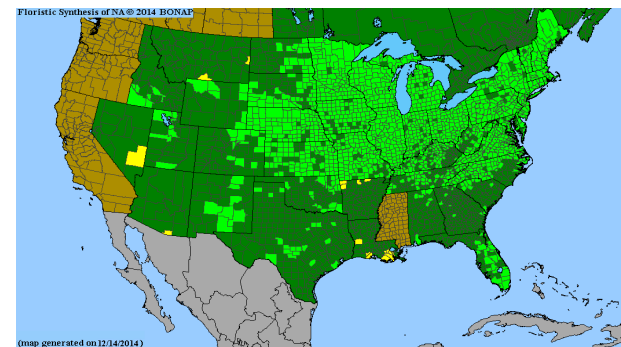
Inflorescence: UMBELS lateral in the upper portion of the stem, typically paired at the upper nodes, finely pubescent, ca. 3 cm broad, the peduncles ca. 4 cm long

Flowers: small; calyx lobes ca. 2 mm long; corolla bright purple-pink, the lobes ca. 5 mm long; hoods drying white, erect-ascending, ovoid-oblong, 2.5-3 mm long, 1.3-1.6 mm broad along the sloping apex, about as long as the gynostegium, obtuse-rounded above, the horns digitate, attached near the base of the hoods, exerted ca. 1.5 mm and arching over the stigma head; anther wings 1.6-1.7 mm long; corpusculum ca. 0.3 mm long, the pollinia ca. 1 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on erect pedicels, 6-7 cm long

Habitat: wet, flat, grassy meadow; 1500 m (5000 ft); Aug

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. *J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci.* Volume 27, 169-187.

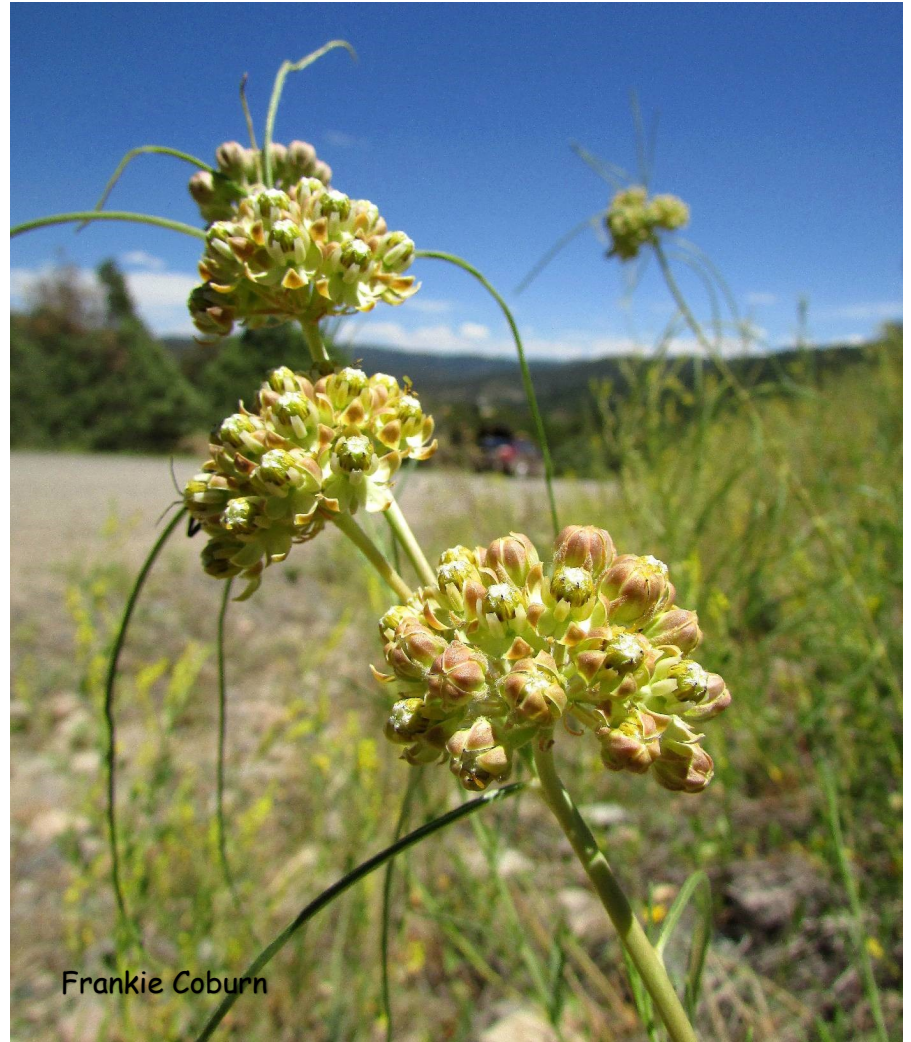




Patrick Alexander



Max Licher



Frankie Coburn

Asclepias rusbyi

Rusby's Milkweed

General: Perennial, Native, Forb/Herb. Herbaceous from slender simple stems that are glabrous, 60-120 cm tall.

Leaves: Irregularly alternate, sessile and linear, 9-15 cm long, 3-7 mm across, somewhat subsucculent, glaucous and conduplicate.

Flowers: Umbels later from few to several of the upper nodes, several to many flowered, with peduncles 1.5 cm long. Flowers small, calyx lobes ovate-lanceolate, 3-4 mm long, minutely to irregularly pilosulose, corolla rotate, pale green and tinted with purple, the hoods deeply saccate, 2-2.5 mm long.

Fruits: Follicles unknown-

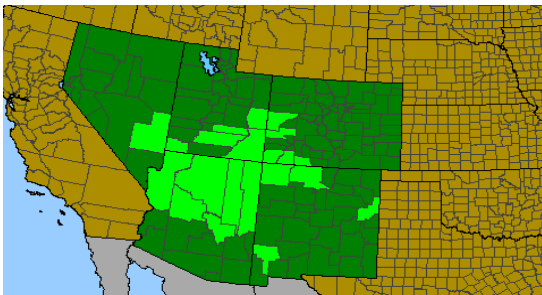
Ecology: Found in rocky slopes in open oak forest, from 3,500-7,000 ft (1067- 2134 m); flowers June and July.

Distribution: Ranges across northern Arizona along the edge of the Mogollon rim and into southern and southeastern Utah.

Notes: Some uncertainty about this taxa, and whether it belongs as a variety of *A. engelmanniana*. Woodson 1954 wrote, -I am rather reluctantly assigning it to full status as a species because there are several, not merely one or at best a few, structural differences of the flowers, and because the populations occurs well within the range of *A. engelmanniana*.

Synonyms: *Acerates rusbyi*, *Asclepias engelmanniana* var. *rusbyi*

Editor: SBuckley 2014



Asclepias involucrate

Dwarf Milkweed

Plant: perennial herb; vegetative parts sparsely to densely covered with short curly hairs; stems several to many from the root crown, loosely ascending to horizontally spreading, sparingly branched below, 10-20 cm long; milky sap

Leaves: mostly erect, subopposite to irregularly alternate, sub sessile, the petioles 1-3 mm long, the blades ovate to mostly lanceolate or oblong-linear, becoming more or less narrow upwards, 1-6 cm long, 5-25 mm broad, long attenuate, acute to obtuse apically, acute to obtuse or rounded at the base, the margins short woolly, the upper surface glabrous or nearly so, the lower surface glabrate, pubescent or sparsely short woolly

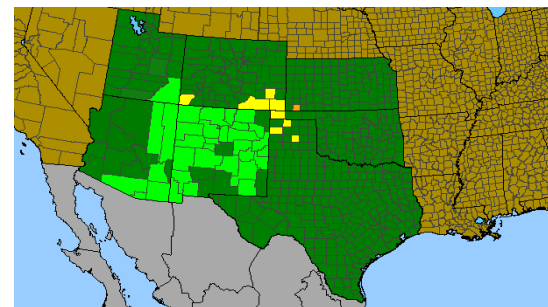
Inflorescence: Umbels solitary and terminal on the longer branches, sessile, more or less closely subtended by 1-4 leaflike bracts, 2-5 cm broad

Flowers: small; calyx lobes ca. 3 mm long; corolla greenish to purplish, the lobes 4-6 mm long; hoods mostly white to yellow, quite variable in form, erect-ascending to divergent, narrowly to very broadly obovoid to rarely somewhat oblong, widening upward to a truncate or oblique rim, mostly broader than long, 2.2-4.2 mm long along the dorsal surface, 1.2-3.8 mm broad across the top, as long as to ca. 1 mm longer than the gynostegium, the horns attached near the middle of the hoods, radially flat, incurved, exerted 0.5-2 mm; anther wings 1.2-1.6 mm long; corpusculum 0.3-0.4 mm long, the pollinia 0.8-1 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed to spreading pedicels, 3.5-6 cm long

Habitat: Sandy desert scrub, grassland, oak and pine woodland; 1150-2200 m (3700-7300 ft); Apr-Jul

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



Asclepias latifolia

Broadleaf Milkweed

Plant: perennial herb; stems erect or ascending, unbranched, 20-80 cm tall, short woolly to more or less glabrate; milky sap

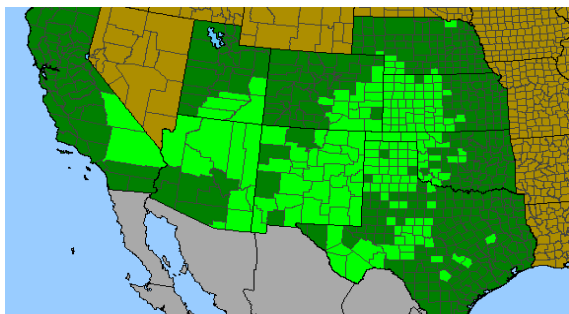
Leaves: opposite, subsessile or the petioles to 10 mm long, the blades nearly circular to mostly broadly elliptic, 5-14 cm long, 4-12 cm broad, broadly rounded to subcordate at the base, broadly rounded to truncate or retuse at the apex, apiculate, short woolly when young, in age more or less glabrate on both surfaces

Inflorescence: Umbels lateral at most of the upper nodes, persistently short woolly, (4-)5-8 cm broad, subsessile or the peduncles to 2(-3) cm long **Flowers:** large; calyx lobes ca. 4 mm long; corolla greenish, the lobes 7-10 mm long; hoods whitish to yellow-brown, erect or uncommonly ascending, mostly oblong-quadrate, truncate at the apex, 3-4 mm high, 2-3 mm broad, about as long as the gynostegium, the horns radially flat, fused nearly the full length of the hoods, triangular to sickle-shaped, abruptly incurved and short-exserted; anther wings 2.7-3.2 mm long; corpusculum 0.4-0.5 mm long, the pollinia 1.7-1.9 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 7-9 cm long

Habitat: Canyons and rocky slopes, desert grasslands, spreading to roadsides; 750-2150 m (2500-7000 ft); Jun-Sep

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



Asclepias quinqueidentata

Slim pod Milkweed

Plant: perennial herb; stems slender, more or less erect, with secondary shoots ascending and spreading from the lower nodes, 20-60 cm tall; milky sap

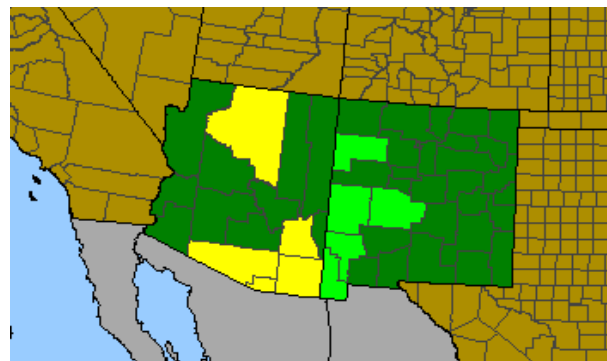
Leaves: opposite, sessile or the petioles 1-2 mm long, the blades linear, 2-14 cm long, 1-5 mm broad, attenuate at apex and base

Inflorescence: Umbels 1 to several from the upper nodes, 2-5 cm broad, the peduncles 1-8 cm long. **Flowers:** small; calyx lobes ca. 3 mm long; corolla purplish, the lobes 5-7 mm long; hoods erect-ascending, ovoid, 2.4-3.6 mm long along the dorsal surface, 1.2-2 mm broad at the base, about as long as the gynostegium, the rim conspicuously 5-toothed, the horns radially flat, erect, attached nearly to the top of the hoods, exserted and appearing as a sixth tooth; anther wings 1.5-1.7 mm long; corpusculum 0.5 mm long, the pollinia 0.8-1 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 11-15 cm long

Habitat Open mt. woodlands with oak, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir, mts; 1300-2550 m (4300-8300 ft); Jul-Aug

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiadaceae*. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.





Sue Carnahan



Max Licher



Patrick Alexander

Asclepias macrotis **Longhorn Milkweed**

Plant: suffrutescent perennial; 15-35 cm tall; stems numerous, ascending, slender, copiously branched, finely short pubescent in lines above the leaves; milky sap
Leaves: opposite, sessile, the blades narrowly linear, 2-9 cm long, 0.5-1.5 mm broad, glabrous, the margins revolute

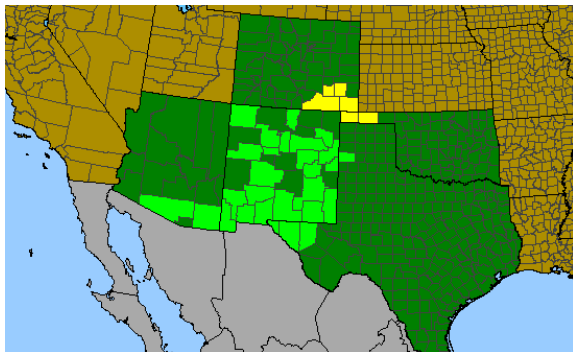
INFLORESCENCE: Umbels lateral at 1 to few of the upper nodes, ca. 2 cm broad, the peduncles 0.1-0.7 cm long

Flowers: small; calyx lobes ca. 2 mm long; corolla green to purple-tipped outside, greenish inside, the lobes 4-5 mm long; hoods purple below, yellowish white on the sides, undulate and ciliate along the upper margin, broadly rounded at the base, erect-ascending and oblong in the lower portion, recurved-spreading near the middle to an attenuate apex, 4-5 mm long along the dorsal surface, the margins ca. 2 mm high and about as long as the gynostegium, the horns radially flat, attached near the base of the hoods, erect, exserted ca. 1 mm; anther wings 1-1.1 mm long; corpusculum 0.3 mm long, the pollinia 0.6-0.7 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 4-8 cm long

Habitat: Grasslands and open woodlands, mts; 1400-2050 m (4600-6800 ft); Jun-Aug

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. *Asclepiada-*



Asclepias pumila **Plains Milkweed**

General: Perennial, Native, Forb/Herb, Stems glabrous to glabrate, 10-30 cm tall, minutely puberulent.

Leaves: Alternate to appearing whorled and spirally alternate, crowded and rigid, 2-5 cm long, linear-filiform, glabrous to puberulent, the margins revolute.

Flowers: Axillary or terminal umbel with short peduncles, small with the calyx lobes about 2 mm long, reflexed at anthesis, the corolla reflexed-rotate and greenish white, the lobes 3-5 mm, oblong, reflexed, the hoods erect, whitish, and shorter than the horns within but broadly oval.

Fruits: Narrowly fusiform follicle, 3-8 cm long, finely puberulent on an erect pedicel.

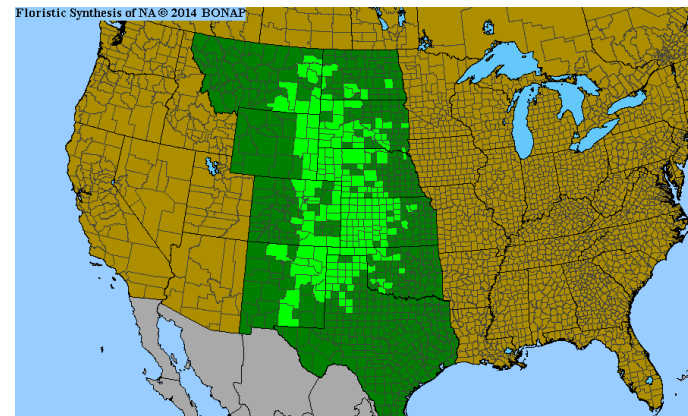
Habitat: Found on open plains and grasslands from 4,500-6,000 ft (1372-1829 m), flowers June-September.

Distribution: Great Plains species that ranges from northern New Mexico across the plains to Arkansas and north to the Dakotas and Montana.

Notes: This is a Great Plains species. Known to be toxic to livestock. **Ethnobotany:** Infusion of the leaves taken for diarrhea. *pumila* means dwarf.

Synonyms: *Asclepias verticillata* var. *pumila*

Editor: SBuckley 2011, 2014, AHazelton 2015





Asclepias nummularia **Tufted Milkweed**

Plant: perennial herb, diminutive, densely to sparingly wooly, the plant above ground level 3-12 cm tall; stems one to several from the base, erect or ascending **Leaves:** opposite, the petioles 1-7 mm long, the blades circular to broadly elliptic, 1.5-5 cm long, 1-5.5 cm broad, obtuse, rounded or subcordate at the base, obtuse to rounded or truncate at the apex, apiculate

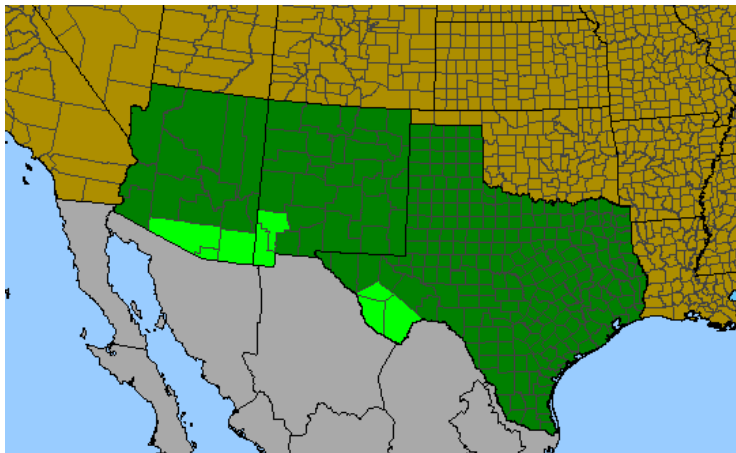
Inflorescence: Umbels lateral but overtopping the leaves and appearing terminal, 3-5 cm broad, the peduncles 2-8 cm long

Flowers: small; calyx lobes 2-3 mm long; corolla purple-pink, the lobes 4-6 mm long; hoods pinkish to yellowish, erect-ascending, obovoid-triangular, widening upward to a truncate apex, 2.2-3 mm long along the dorsal surface, 1.6-2.2 mm broad at the top, about as long as the gynostegium, the horns radially flat, variably attached from the lower to the upper portion of the hoods, triangular to sickle-shaped, abruptly incurved and exerted ca. 1 mm; anther wings 1-1.2 mm long; corpusculum 0.2-0.3 mm long, the pollinia 0.5-0.6 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 4-6 cm long

Habitat: Oak and conifer woodlands, grasslands; 1200-1600 m (4000-5200 ft); Mar-May

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994.



Asclepias oenotheroides **talayote**

General: Perennial, native, low herbaceous, the stems clustered from the rootstalk, ascending 5-45 cm tall.

Leaves: Opposite, long petiolate, ovate to oblong lanceolate, the base is abruptly cuneate to the petiole, 4-12 cm long, 1-6 cm across, pale green, minutely puberulent especially below, petioles 1-2 cm long.

Flowers: Lateral and solitary from the upper nodes, shortly pedunculate, several-flowered, the peduncle 1-2 cm long, minutely puberulent. Calyx lobes 3-4 mm, minutely puberulent, the corolla reflexed-rotate, greenish white or yellow lobes less than 1.5 mm, horn adnate to near tip of hood.

Fruits: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, fusiform to ovoid, shortly apiculate 7-9 cm long, 1.5-2 cm across, smooth to minutely pilosulose to glabrate.

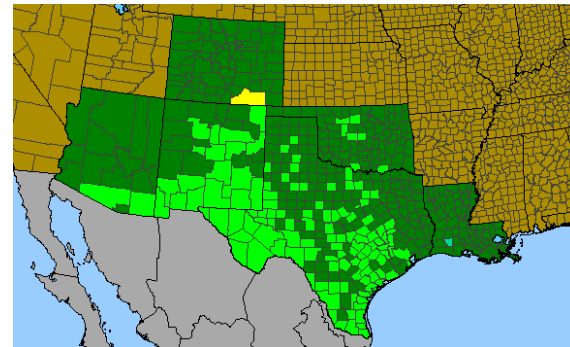
Habitat: Found in rocky and clayey soils along mesas and llanos, along hills and in fields and thickets often in disturbed areas; flowers February to October.

Distribution: Reaches its northern limit in southeastern Arizona and east to south Texas, south to Chipas and ultimately all the way to Costa Rica.

Notes: Woodson 1954 described this species this way, -The flowers of *A. oenotheroides* are structurally about the most elegantly contrived of all milkweeds, but the color is very dingy and the whole aspect of the plant is extraordinarily weedy. This is a known monarch host plant.

Synonyms: *Asclepias brevicornu*

Editor: SBuckley 2014, AHazelton 2015





Patrick Alexander



Sue Carnahan



Patrick Alexander



Sue Carnahan

Asclepias nyctaginifolia

Mojave milkweed

Plant: Perennial herb; stems erect to spreading, sparingly branched from near the base, 10-40(-60) cm tall, pubescent more or less in lines above the petioles

Leaves: opposite, the petioles 1-3 cm long, the blades ovate to broadly lanceolate, 3-14 cm long, 2-7 cm broad, the bases broadly obtuse to rounded or truncate, more or less abruptly narrowed to the petiole, obtuse to acute at the apex, pubescent with more or less spreading hairs on both surfaces or infrequently glabrate

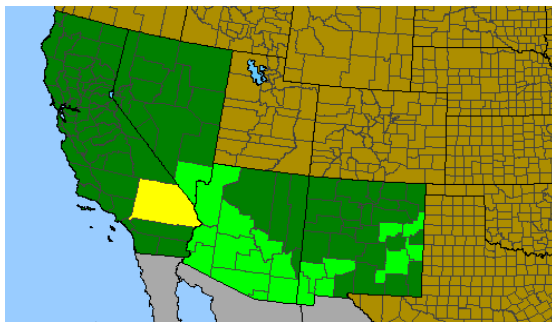
Inflorescence: Umbels 1 to many, lateral, 5-8 cm broad, sessile or the peduncles to 2 cm long

Flowers: large; calyx lobes 3.5-6 mm long; corolla purplish-green, the lobes 12-16 mm long; hoods yellowish to orangish, erect, oblong from a rounded base, more or less dilated above to an oblique or truncate apex, 8-11 mm long, 2-3 mm broad at the top, 4-7 mm longer than the gynostegium, the horns radially flat, attached in the upper half of the hoods, triangular, with a sharp, tooth-like projection exerted ca. 1 mm; anther wings 1.2-1.6 mm long; corpusculum 0.3 mm long, the pollinia 1.2-1.5 mm long

Fruit: Follicles erect on deflexed pedicels, 5-9 cm long

Habitat: Washes, slopes, roadsides of deserts, grasslands, and open woodlands; 500-2000 m (1600-6500 ft); Apr-Oct

REFERENCES: Sundell, Eric. 1994. Asclepiadaceae. J. Ariz. - Nev. Acad. Sci. Volume 27, 169-187.



David Thornberg



Max Licher



Max Licher