

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDAP0030L1

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Amsonia tomentosa stenophylla*

**COMMON NAME:** Narrowleaf Blue Star

**SYNONYMS:** *Amsonia arenaria*; *Amsonia eastwoodiana*

**FAMILY:** Apocynaceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Kearney and Peebles. 1939. Journal of the Washington Academy of Science. 29:487.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** Monument Valley, Navajo County, Arizona.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** U.S. National Herbarium No. 1634559. Peebles and Fulton #11944. June 4, 1935.

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** *Amsonia tomentosa* with two varieties is the only species in the subgenus *articularia*.

**DESCRIPTION:** Stems 20-40 cm tall, very densely short haired. Leaves thin, narrowly ovate-lanceolate, 2-5 cm long and 1 to 2 cm wide, pointed at tip, densely short-hairy. Inflorescence of several to many pale gray-blue flowers, the floral tube 5-12 mm long, the petal lobes 4-10 mm long. Follicles (pods) fat, 6-8 cm long, short-hairy.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** "Occurs with *A. brevifolia* for the most part..."(Munz, 1974).

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**TOTAL RANGE:** Northern Arizona, southern New Mexico, west Texas, southwestern Utah and northern Chihuahua, Mexico

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Navajo (Monument Valley), Coconino (Little Colorado River), and Yavapai counties.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Herbaceous perennial.

**PHENOLOGY:** April - June

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Sandy areas along small washes.

**ELEVATION:** 1,000 to 5,000 ft. (305-1525 m)

**EXPOSURE:**

**SUBSTRATE:** Gravelly washes and sandy slopes.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Great Basin Desertscrub

**POPULATION TRENDS:**

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:**

**STATE STATUS:**

**OTHER STATUS:**

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**

**CONSERVATION MEASURES TAKEN:**

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

**SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

**LITERATURE CITATIONS:**

Holland, J.S., W.E. Niles and P.J. Leary. 1979. Vascular plants of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. LAM Technical Report No. 3. National Park Service/University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Kearney, T.H. and R.H. Peebles. 1939. Arizona plants: New species, varieties, and combinations. Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences. 29(11):475,487,488.

- McDougall, W.B. 1973. Seed plants of northern Arizona. The Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff. p.365.
- McLaughlin, S.P. 1982. A revision of the southwestern species of *Amsonia* (Apocynaceae). *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*. 69(2):1-24 (preprint).
- Munz, P.A. 1974. A flora of southern California. University of California Press, Berkeley, p. 88.
- Shreve, F. and I.L. Wiggins: 1964. Vegetation and flora of the Sonoran Desert, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. p. 1098-1099.
- Woodson, R.E. Jr. 1938. North American flora. The New York Botanical Garden, New York. 29(2):126, 131.
- Woodson, R.E. Jr. 1928. Studies in the Apocynaceae.III. A monograph of the genus *Amsonia*. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 15:397-434.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- Kearney & Peebles: *A. stenophylla* is nearly intermediate between *A. tomentosa* and *A. arenaria* of W. Texas, So. New Mexico and Chihuahua.
- McLaughlin (1982): Combined *A. eastwoodiana* of northern Arizona and *A. arenaria* of the Chihuahuan Desert in Texas, New Mexico and Chihuahua into *A. tomentosa* var. *stenophylla*.

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