

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDONA060D0

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Epilobium lactiflorum*  
**COMMON NAME:** Milkweed Willow Herb  
**SYNONYMS:** *Epilobium alpinum* fo. *lactiflorum*, *E. a.* var. *lactiflorum*, *E. hornemannii* var. *lactiflorum*.  
**FAMILY:** Onagraceae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Haussknecht, Heinrich Carl.  
Oesterreichische Botanische Zeitschrift 29(3): 89–90. 1879.

**TYPE LOCALITY:**

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** *Epilobium* is a large genus with over 200 species worldwide and 45 in North America. *E. lactiflorum* is one of 13 species known to occur in Arizona.

**DESCRIPTION:** Habit: Perennial herb 1.5--5 dm, generally clumped, ascending, minutely strigose in lines (especially distally); stolons short, leafy. Leaf: 20--55 mm, narrowly ovate to narrowly lanceolate (distal narrower), +- ciliate, low-dentate, obtuse to acute; petiole +- winged, 3--12 mm. Inflorescence: nodding to erect, strigose, glandular. Flower: hypanthium 1--2.2 mm; sepals 3--5.5 mm; petals 4--8.8 mm, generally white; stigma club-like. Fruit: 50--100 mm, scattered hairy; pedicel 20--45 mm. Seed: 1.1--1.6 mm, netted. Chromosomes: 2n=36. Jepson eFlora 2016.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** It is a hairy, clumping perennial with thin stems reaching 10 to 50 centimeters in height, and leafy stolons. The leaves are 2 to 5 centimeters long and have hairs along the edges and winged petioles. The tiny flowers are usually white, sometimes pink, and have notched petals 3 to 6 millimeters long. The fruit is a hairy capsule up to 10 centimeters in length.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

Photos and Herbarium Mounts:

<http://swbiodiversity.org/seinet/taxa/index.php?taxon=Epilobium%20lactiflorum>.

<http://eol.org/pages/582988/media>.

**TOTAL RANGE:** Eurasia; Canada: both western most and eastern most provinces. United States: Alaska to Montana and south to New Mexico, and all states west.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Known from a single 1963 collection near Sheep Crossing in Apache County.

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**GROWTH FORM:** Perennial herb.

**PHENOLOGY:** Flowering: June – Sept.

**BIOLOGY:**

**HABITAT:** Damp meadows, streambanks, talus

**ELEVATION:** 4600 – 11000 feet (1400-3350m) in California (Jepson eFlora 2016). Only Arizona collection from 9240 feet (2817m).

**EXPOSURE:** Not specified.

**SUBSTRATE:** Not specified.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** In Arizona, occurred with *E. saximontanum*.

**POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:** Unknown for Arizona. Known from a single 1963 collection. Ranked as critically imperiled by NatureServe in the State.

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None.

**STATE STATUS:** None.

**OTHER STATUS:** None.

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** None specified.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** None.

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Attempt to verify if species is still extant at original collection locale.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**  
National Forest.

USDA Forest Service, Apache-Sitgreaves

**SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

**REFERENCES:**

Jepson eFlora, accessed 7/1/2016,

[http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora\\_display.php?tid=24368](http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=24368).

Tropicos, accessed 7/1/2016, <http://www.tropicos.org/Name/23200136>.

**MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 2016-07-11 (BDT)

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