

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PMLIL1X010

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Streptopus amplexifolius*
COMMON NAME: White Mandarin twisted stalk; clasping twistedstalk; claspleaf
twistedstalk; twisted stalk; Cucumber -root
SYNONYMS: *Uvularia amplexifolia*
FAMILY: Liliaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: *Streptopus amplexifolius* (L.) DC., Flore Française ...
Toisième Édition 3: 174. 1805. *Uvularia amplexifolia* L., Species Plantarum 1: 304. 1753.

TYPE LOCALITY:

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Species *amplexifolius* is 1 of 4 species in the genus *Streptopus*.
The other species include *S. lanceolatus*, *S. streptopoides*, and *S. X oreopolus*. *S. amplexifolius*
var. *americanus* is the only variety of this species found in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: Rhizomatus perennial herb with succulent stems usually freely branched, 3-10
dm (11.8-39.4 in) tall, and twisted noticeably in a zigzag pattern. Several ovate-lanceolate leaves,
entire to minutely toothed, auriculate-clasping, 5-15 cm (2-6 in) long, and 2.5-5 cm (1-2 in) wide,
and alternate along the stems. Peduncles are 1-5 cm long, 1- or 2-flowered; flowers white with a
greenish tinge, and drooping. Perianth is 8-12 mm long, the segments recurved or spreading
apically; stigma entire. The 10-18 mm long fruit is ovoid-ellipsoid, and yellowish white to red.
The fruit is edible and has been used in making preserves.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color photo (Wildflowers of Southern California,
<http://www.clunet.edu/wf/nca/flowers/fwr-371.htm>)
B&W line drawing (Martin and Hutchins, 1980: p. 434)
B&W line drawing (Cronquist et al. 1977: p. 487)
Color photo of fruit (Goff in <http://www.nawwal.org/>)
Color photo (Sherry Ballard 1999 in CalPhotos: <http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/>)

Color photo (Gladys Lucille Smith 1999 in CalPhotos:

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/>)

Color photo (Slichter 1996 in

<http://ghs.gresham.k12.or.us/science/ps/nature/gorge/3petal/lily/twist.htm>)

TOTAL RANGE: Widespread in North America and Eurasia. From Greenland to Alaska, southward to North Carolina, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. This does not include the mid-western and southern states.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: White Mountains, Apache County.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial forb/herb.

PHENOLOGY: June – August. Cronquist et al. (1977) reports May – July.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Moist forest, streambanks, and mountain thickets.

ELEVATION: 9,100 – 10,950 ft (2776-3340 m).

EXPOSURE:

SUBSTRATE: Sandy, shallow and wet alluvium soils of igneous origin.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Mixed conifer and sub-alpine forests. Associated with spruce, Douglas-fir, and corkbark fir.

POPULATION HISTORY AND TRENDS:

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

STATE STATUS:

Salvage Restricted (ARS, ANPL 1999)

OTHER STATUS:

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: BIA – Fort Apache Reservation; USFS – Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The fruit of *Streptopus amplexifolius* can be consumed raw or cooked in soups and stews. It is juicy with a cucumber flavor. They are reported to be slightly cathartic when growing in certain

areas. The fruit is also a laxative if eaten in large quantities. Young shoots are use raw in salads or cooked like asparagus. The root is sometimes used in salads for its cucumber flavor. (http://www.mcassb.org/sbpanda/wild_cucumber.html).

Native Americans used the stems, leaves and roots as a scent, and on fishing nets to improve the catch of fish (Slichter *in*, <http://ghs.gresham.k12.or.us/science/ps/nature/gorge/3petal/lily/twist.htm>)

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