

NAME: *Asclepias subulata* <sup>e</sup> Dcne.  
A

FAMILY: Asclepiadaceae

EXTRACTOR: WARE

Recoll. to Pettit

DISTRIBUTION:

Genus:

Species:

Priority: M

STATUS:

Date:

ONS:

Preliminary Active:

Confirmed Active: 1C-KB, 1/29/76

ACTIVE SAMPLE:

Content: 3.25 lb. st-1f-fl

Source: California SPJ-2337

Date of Collection: 3/ /72

Number: PR-25394

B-678277 (DROPPED)

RECOLLECTION:

PR No.:

Content:

Date:

Source:

*On list sent to Edson 3-15-77  
Reply 5-6-77 - cannot supply.  
Per Stuffer 7-20-77 - will collect. Will let us  
know price before starting collection.*

Asclepias subulata Decaisne  
(ASCLEPIADACEAE)

NOMENCLATURE: IDENTIFICATION:

Accepted Name: Asclepias subulata Decne. in A.DC.  
Prodrumus systematis naturalis regni vegetabilis. 8:571.  
1844.

Approved: GMC

References: R.E. Woodson, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 41:154. 1954.

Synonyms:

Identification: One voucher specimen, SPJ-2337, is correct. RWS 1/77.

FRACTIONATOR:

Petit.

DESCRIPTION:

Plants with numerous, erect, rushlike (leafless) stems up to 10 feet high which arise from a woody caudex.

ECOLOGY:

Occasional in desert washes and sandy places in eastern Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert of California. Locally abundant on dry slopes, mesas and plains in the Arizona Desert. Elevation up to 3000 feet. Flowers sporadically throughout the year.

Asclepias subulata Decaisne (ASCLEPIADACEAE)

ACTIVITY DATA:	Plant Part	Weight	Locality	Coll. & No.	Date	Priority	Voucher
<u>Orig. Sample</u> PR-25394 *	st-1f-f1	3.25	Calif.	SPJ-2337	03/72	M	+

Recollections

DISTRIBUTION - CALIFORNIA (San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial & San Diego Cos.), ARIZONA (Mohave, Gila, Maricopa, Pinal & Yuma Cos.), NEVADA (Clark Co.), and MEXICO (Baja, California, Sonora, Sinaloa).

HABIT AND ECOLOGY - Plants with numerous, erect, rushlike (leafless) stems up to 10 feet high which arise from a woody caudex. Occasional in desert washes and sandy places in eastern Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert of California. Locally abundant on dry slopes, mesas and plains in the Arizona Desert. Elevation up to 3000 feet. Flowers sporadically throughout the year.

COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS - This species might easily be confused with the closely related A. albicans which is also active. The distribution of A. albicans is similar to A. subulata, but A. albicans is usually found on rocky slopes where A. subulata occurs often in sandy or silty places. Two other related species are A. masonii and A. leptopus in the Sonoran Desert of Mexico. In California I have observed this species occasionally as small aggregations which each may amount to 15 pounds dry weight.

COMMON NAMES AND USES - "Ajamete" (Calif.), "Yamete" (Baja, Calif.), "Yumete" (Sonora), "Candelilla bronca" (Sinaloa). The milky juice is sometimes employed as an emetic and purgative (30). Used as a laxative by the Pima Indians (13).

REFERENCES

- Woodson, R. E., Jr. The North American species of Asclepias. Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 41: 1-211, 1954.  
Abrams (1), Jaeger (12), Kearney (13), Munz (22), Shreve (28), Standley (30), Uphof (34), and Martinez, M. Plantas Medicinales de Mexico. 1969.

## GENERAL SAMPLES

Collections				Samples				Extracts			
Coll.	V.S.	Locality	Date	PR-No.	Desc.	R.S.	Wt.	B-No.	Tumor	Priority	Date
--		Arizona (Pinal Co.)	---	*(00000277)	Px			070332			
				"	st-lf-fl (fresh)			070508			
				"	" (dried)			601240			
				*(00001370)	Px (fresh)			601822			
--		Arizona (Pinal Co.)	6/60	*(1813-PL-B)	Pl			658367			
--		Arizona	12/66	*(GRP-821)	st-lf-fl			624868	KB		6/72
SPJ-2337	++	California	3/72	23,394	st-lf-fl	++	3.25	678277	KB	M	1/29/76

Descr. Description of Sample

R.S. Reference Sample

V.S. Voucher Specimen

Wt. Weight

\* Numbers in parenthesis are those other than PR-numbers.

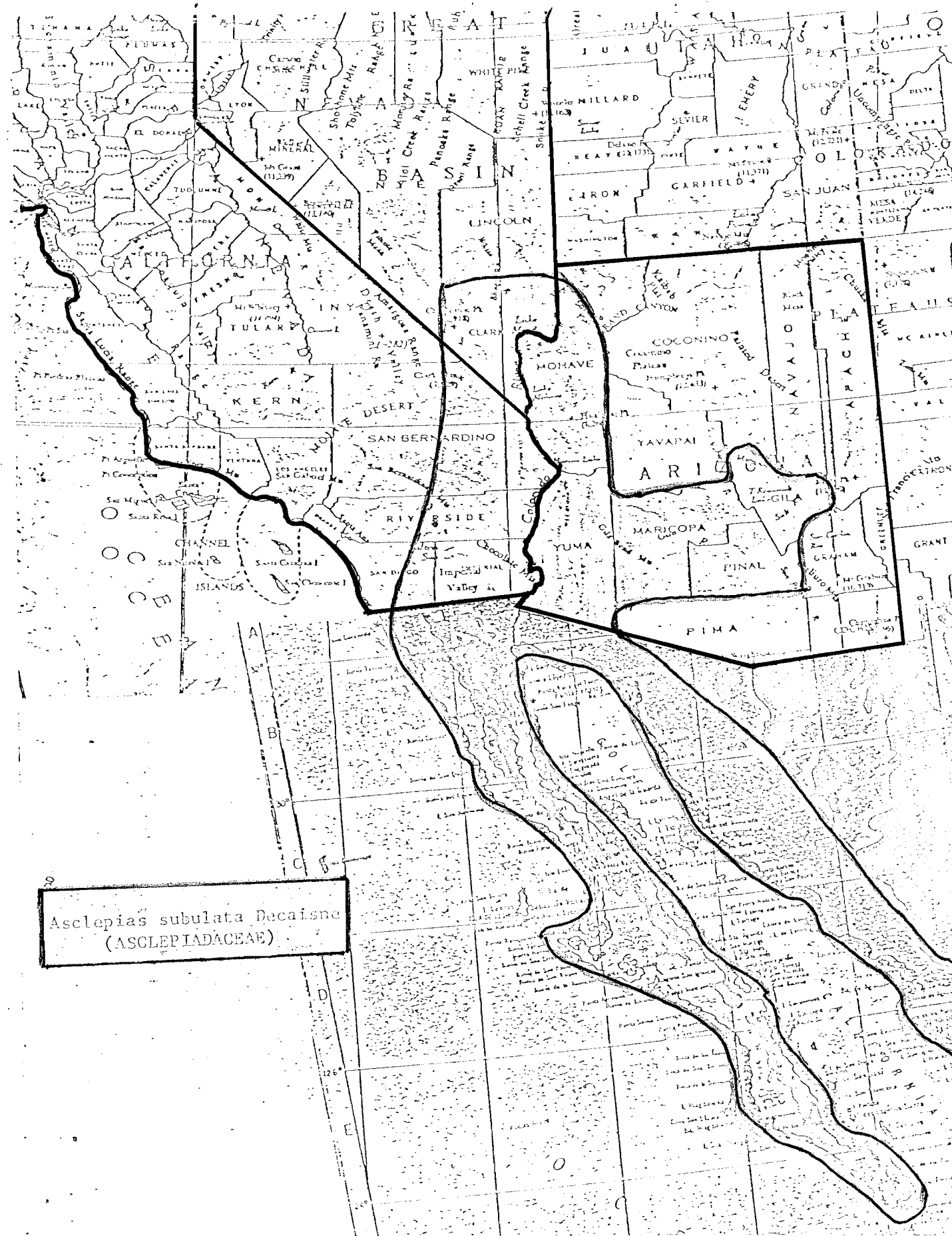
+-- Specimen is filed here but identity has not been confirmed.

++ Specimen is filed here and identity has been confirmed.

-- Specimen was not seen.

# Recollection that has confirmed.

DISTRIBUTION - CALIFORNIA (San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial & San Diego Cos.), ARIZONA (Mohave, Gila, Maricopa, Pinal & Yuma Cos.), NEVADA (Clark Co.), and MEXICO (Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa).



*Asclepias subulata* Decaisne  
(ASCLEPIADACEAE)

COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:

This species might easily be confused with the closely related A. albicans which is also active. The distribution of A. albicans is similar to A. subulata, but A. albicans is usually found on rocky slopes where A. subulata occurs often in sandy or silty places. Two other related species are A. masonii and A. leptopus in the Sonoran Desert of Mexico. In California I have observed this species occasionally as small aggregations which each may amount to 15 pounds dry weight.

COMMON NAMES, USES:

"Ajamete" (Calif.), "Yamete" (Baja, Calif.), "Yumete" (Sonora), "Candelilla bronca" (Sinaloa). The milky juice is sometimes employed as an emetic and purgative. Used as a laxative by the Pima Indians.

ACTIVITY DATA IN OTHER SPECIES OF Asclepias:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tumor(s)</u>	<u>Priority/Status</u>	<u>Active Agents</u>	<u>Chemist</u>
<u>A. albicans</u>	KB, PS	C	Compound Desglucouzarin	Farnsworth
<u>A. amplexicaulis</u>	KB, PS	C	--	Piatak
<u>A. brachystephana</u>	KB	DK	--	Kupchan
<u>A. curassavica</u>	KB, LL	CC	Calotropin	Kupchan
<u>A. eriocarpa</u>	KB, PS	DK		Kupchan
<u>A. erosa</u>	KB, PS	DN		Cole
<u>A. fasciculata</u>	PS	C		Piatak
<u>A. filiformis</u>	KB	DN		Jordaan
<u>A. hirtella</u>	KB, PS	C		Piatak
<u>A. sullivantii</u>	PS	C		Piatak
<u>A. tuberosa</u>	KB, WA, PS	C		Wall

REFERENCES:

- Woodson, R.E., Jr. The North American species of Asclepias. Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 41:1-211, 1954.
- Abrams, Leroy. Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States (Washington, Oregon and California). Stanford University Press. 1940. (4 vols.)
- Jaeger, E.C. Desert Wild Flowers (Revised Edition). Stanford University Press. 1941.
- Kearney, T.H. & R.H. Peebles. Arizona Flora. University of California Press. 1969.
- Munz, P.A. A California Flora. University of California Press. 1959.
- Shreve, F. & I.L. Wiggins. Vegetation and Flora of the Sonoran Desert. Stanford University Press. (2 vols.). 1964.
- Standley, P.C. Trees and Shrubs of Mexico. Smithsonian Institution. Washington Govt. Printing Office. 1920-1926.
- Uphof, J.C. Th. Dictionary of Economic Plants. Verlag Von J. Cramer. 1968.
- Martinez, M. Plantas Medicinales de Mexico. 1969.

PREPARED BY Richard W. Spjut DATE January 21, 1977