

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDAST8V010

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Stevia lemmonii* Gray

COMMON NAME: Lemmon's stevia, Lemmon's candyleaf

SYNONYMS: *Stevia lemmoni*

FAMILY: Asteraceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts Sci. 17: 204. 1882.

TYPE LOCALITY: United States of America: Arizona: Near Santa Catalina.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: GH-12736. J.G. Lemmon 189, 1881.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: The species *lemmonii* is 1 of 67 species in the genus *Stevia* (1 of 8 species in North America per USDA, NRCS 2004) and falls under the series Corymbosea, which contains approximately 54 of the 67 species of *Stevia*. Corymbosea contains two subseries; *S. lemmonii* falls into the subseries Fruticosae. According to Lehr (1978), there are 5 species of *Stevia* that occur in Arizona. The species *Stevia lemmonii* is comprised of two varieties, with var. *hispidula* endemic to Mexico (Grashoff 1974 in NatureServe 2004; Martin et al. 1998).

DESCRIPTION: Low erect or curved-ascending perennial shrub (mound-shaped), 3-6 dm (12-24 in) high (Epple 1995 reports up to 3 ft high), with many leafy, virgate branches; stems brownish. Grayish green, hairy, rough leaves, are linear-elliptic or lanceolate, opposite, entire, usually firm, subsessile by a cuneate base or (especially the lower) shortly petioled. Leaves are 4-6(-13) cm long [1.6-2.4 in] and 1-1.5(-3.8) cm wide, much less than half (rarely over 1/6) as wide as long, 3-nerved but not strongly veined; lanate at least along the midrib beneath. Inflorescence terminal on stem and branches, and of dense rather large corymbously disposed glomerules. The heads are subsessile, 9-12(14) mm long, in dense, fastigiate cymose panicles. Flowers are white, tubular, 5-lobed, with long stamens, 3 mm wide and 13 mm long; in clusters to 5 cm wide. The phyllaries are covered by a dense spreading grayish hispid puberulence, pale green. Pappus a very short, toothed crown of completely connate scales, about 0.4 mm deep; achenes alike. (Robinson 1930; Kearney and Peebles et al. 1951; Epple 1995).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: *Stevia lemmonii* can be distinguished from *S. plummerae* and *S. serrata* by its leaves. The leaves of *S. plummerae* and *S. serrata* are serrate, linear to

lance-oblong, as opposed to entire and linear-elliptic or lanceolate. Their pappus is also not a toothed crown, but rather of squamellae (Kearney et al. 1960). *Stevia lemmonii* var. *lemmonii* has glands on the involucre bracts, rather than harsh hairs as in *S. l.* var. *hispidula* (Martin et al. 1998).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color photo of flower head (L.E. Epple in A.O. Epple 1995: Pl. 236)

TOTAL RANGE: Southern Arizona and northern Mexico (mountains of Durango northward, in the states of Sonora, Durango, Chihuahua).

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: From the Santa Catalina, Rincon, Quinlan, and Santa Rita mountains in Pima County; and the Patagonia Mountains in Santa Cruz County.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial shrub/subshrub.

PHENOLOGY: Flowers from March-June; blooms from February to May per Epple (1995).

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Rocky, canyon slopes, ravines, and streambeds in oak and pine-oak forests/woodlands.

ELEVATION: In Arizona, ranges from 3,000 to 4,580 feet (915-1397 m); the Patagonia Mountains, 5,500 feet (1678 m). Throughout its whole range, found from 2,950-5,900 feet (900-1800 m).

EXPOSURE: North facing.

SUBSTRATE: Sand or rocks.

PLANT COMMUNITY: Oak and pine-oak forests/woodland; upper Sonoran foothills. Associated plant species may include: *Dasyllirion* sp. (spoonflower), *Platanus* sp. (sycamore), *Populus* sp. (cottonwood), *Quercus emoryi* (Emory's oak), and *Vauquelinia* sp.

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown.

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None

STATE STATUS:

None

OTHER STATUS:Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region
3 1999)**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:****PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:****SUGGESTED PROJECTS:****LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** BIA - Tohono O'odham Nation; NPS - Saguaro National Park; USFS - Coronado National Forest.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In its North American occurrences, *Stevia* extends chiefly in uplands, being specially diversified and developing strong endemism in Mexico.

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