

***Asclepias sanjuanensis* Heil, Porter & Welsh**
San Juan Milkweed

Family: Asclepiadaceae

Synonyms: None

NESL Status: G4

Federal Status: None

Plant Description: Perennial herb from a woody taproot, 4 – 8 cm tall, prostrate to ascending; leaves 2 – 4 cm long, oblong to lanceolate, white-tomentulose on the leaf margins; inflorescence terminal umbel with 4 – 15 flowers, corolla brown-purple; follicle 3.5 – 6.5 mm long. Flowering period from late April through early May.

Similar species: *A. involucrata* is easily distinguished from *A. sanjuanensis* by its greenish white petals.

Habitat: Mostly in sandy or sandy loam soils in pinion-juniper woodlands and Great Basin grassland communities. Known populations occur from 5000 to 6200 ft elevation. Often in disturbed sites.

Distribution: San Juan Co., NM

Known Distribution on the Navajo Nation: East of U.S. HWY 666, south of the San Juan River, and just south of the San Juan County line.

Potential Navajo Nation Distribution: San Juan County and northern McKinley County, NM.

Survey Period: April through June.

Avoidance: A 200 ft buffer zone is recommended to avoid disturbance; may be more or less, depending on slope, size and nature of the project.

References:

- Heil, K., Porter, J.M. and S.L. Welsh. 1989. A new species of *Asclepias* (Asclepiadaceae) from northwestern New Mexico. *Great Basin Naturalist* 49: 100-103.
- New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council. 1999. *New Mexico Rare Plants*. Albuquerque, NM. *New Mexico Rare Plants Homepage*. <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu>
- Therrien, J.P. 1999. Genetic diversity in two rare milkweeds from the southwestern United States. *Southwestern Naturalist* 44: 247-255.
- USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1995. *The Farmington District Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Plant Field Guide*. Prepared by Ecosphere Environmental Services, Inc., Farmington, NM.



Asclepias sanjuanensis

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Asclepias sanjuanensis habitat

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