

Prostrate Milkweed

Asclepias prostrata W.H. Blackwell

A federally endangered milkweed known from a few sites in the south Texas brush country, growing completely flat against gravelly ground with small greenish-white flowers. It was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 2023.



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Key facts

Field	Value	Field	Value
Status	Native, rare	Height	2in-6in
Flowers	green, white	Bloom	March to September
Light	Full sun	Soil	Dry
USDA zones	8-10	Leaves	opposite, narrow
Sap	Milky latex	Roots	Deep taproot, resents transplanting
Stratification	30 days cold-moist	States	1

How to identify it

- Entirely prostrate, with stems lying flat on bare gravelly soil.
- Small narrow opposite leaves and tiny greenish-white flowers.
- Known only from Starr and Zapata counties in south Texas and adjacent Mexico.

Ecology

Threatened by brush clearing, energy development and border infrastructure. Most surviving populations are tiny.

Growing

Federally endangered. Collection is prohibited; report sightings to Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Cautions

Listed as Endangered under the US Endangered Species Act.

Where it grows

Texas

More photographs



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Matt Berger. CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.



Eric Knight. CC BY 4.0. iNaturalist.

References

- Plants of the World Online: <https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:21269-2>
- GBIF: <https://www.gbif.org/species/3170330>
- iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/158755>
- BONAP county map: <https://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Asclepias%20prostrata.png>

<https://milkweedusa.com/species/prostrate-milkweed/>