



Desert Willow *Chilopsis linearis*

Flowering-Willow, Willow-Leaf Catalpa, Desert
Catalpa, Flor de Mimbres

Description:

Height: 15- 30'

Spread: 10-20'

Flowers: trumpet-shaped, sweetly fragrant flowers, light pink-violet, occurring in clusters at the tips of the branches.

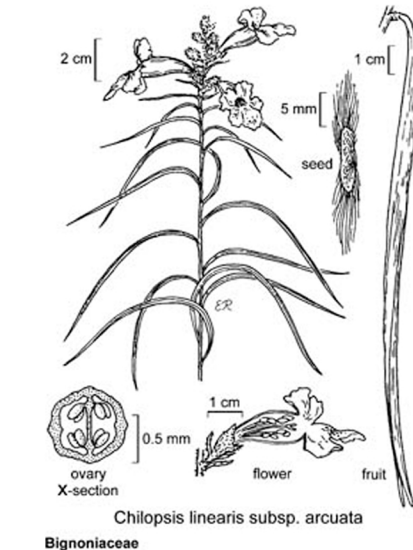
Leaves: 6-12" long, green, linear or narrowly lanceolate, deciduous

Flowering: Late spring and early summer

Uses:

The flowers, leaves, and bark of desert willow were used in hot poultices and to make a soothing tea for coughs. A tea concocted from the flowers "produces a natural anti-oxidant which promotes cardio-

glucose metabolism." It was also used in preparations to



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guard against yeast infections, and athlete's foot as a first aid for scrapes and scratches (Rymer 2004).

The bark was used to make fabrics for shirts and breech

cloth and fashioned into cordage to make nets. Branches were stripped of their bark and used as rod foundations for coil basketry. The wood was used in building house frames and granaries (Moerman 1998), fence posts (Gilman and Watson 1993), and hunting bows. Long limbs were used as a tool to "reach fruits and nuts too high to grasp by hand."

Native Cultures:

Native to the southwestern United States, from California's eastern Mojave Desert to southern Nevada, Arizona. It can also be found in southwest Kansas and western Oklahoma.



Habitats:

Desert willow is commonly found in dry washes and along riverbanks at elevations below 5,000 feet. It often grows in areas with year-round underground water sources. It can withstand seasonal flooding and is known to occupy drainage channels in wash areas.

Pollinators:

Sonoran bumble bees, hummingbirds, honey bees, carpenter bees, & lady-beetles

Resources:

Illustration: Lohmann, L. G. (2012). *Chilopsis linearis* subsp. *arcuata* [Digital Image]. In Jepson Flora Project (Eds.), *Jepson eFlora*. Retrieved from https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=49857

Photographs: Vu Duc Nguyen