



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Scarlet gilia
Scientific Name: *Ipomopsis aggregata*
Plant Family: Polemoniaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: Scarlet gilia is a perennial herb that dies after it flowers once; its primary stem is usually branched from the base. The stems are often glandular and slightly hairy. Large plants may produce branched flowering stems, with side branches that each produce 3 – 7 flowers.

Leaves: Leaves are simple and alternately arranged along the stems, the lower leaves larger than the higher ones. The leaves at the very base of the plant are arranged in a “rosette” at ground level; the flowering stems emerge from this rosette. The rosette’s leaves are 3 to 5 cm (1.25 to 2 in) long with 9-11 lobes; the leaves attached to the erect stems have 5-7 lobes, and may be smooth or hairy.

Flowers: The bright red, tubular flowers are borne along one side of the flowering stems, each of which produce 1 – 7 flowers. The base of each floral tube displays pointed green calyx lobes; the pointed, bright red petals curve backwards from the opening of the tube.

Habitat: Scarlet gilia is widespread in openings of scrub and woodlands from 1100 to 3300 m (3600 to 10800 ft).

Bloom time: April – June

Information source:

The Jepson Manual. 1993. University of California Press; Irwin, R. E. and A. K. Brody. 1999. Nectar-robbing bumble bees reduce the fitness

Did you know? In many populations of scarlet gilia in Colorado, bumble bees rob flowers of their nectar without effectively pollinating the flowers or transferring pollen to other plants. Nectar-robbing decreases seed production in these populations, in which more 80% of the flowers may have their nectar stolen!



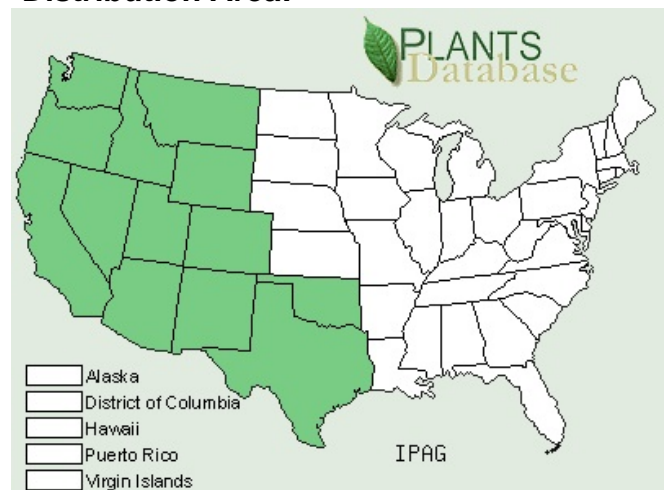
Photograph by Patrick J. Alexander @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Photograph by Patrick J. Alexander @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Phenological observation:
First Flower

Distribution Area:



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)