



# WHAT'S THAT BLOOMIN' THING?

By


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(Master Gardner Trainee)

- **APOCYNACEAE**
- ***Asclepias* (Milkweed)**



# ***APOCYNACEAE: Flowering Plants***

- Members of flowering plants that include over 400 genera.
  - The leaves are usually milky and the flowers are mostly in five flower clusters.
  - These particular plants have fruit; usually with a dry pod that splits open when mature.
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# APOCYNACEAE: Flowering Plants

Other species are:


- *Nerium* (Oleander)
- *Pachypodium* (African Succulents)
- *Frangipani* (Plumeria)








# **ASCLEPIAS** (Milkweed)

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- This particular plant is known as "Milkweed."
  - There are approximately 140 species of this particular family.
  - Milkweed has a milky sap and contains **cardenolides**.
  - Milkweed is essential for pollination to take place by bees, and more importantly by butterflies.
  - Milkweed is the main food source for Monarch butterflies






# ***Asclepias curassavica***

- *Asclepias curassavica* is referred to as:
  - Scarlet Milkweed
  - Tropical Milkweed
  - Bloodflower
  - Red Asclepias
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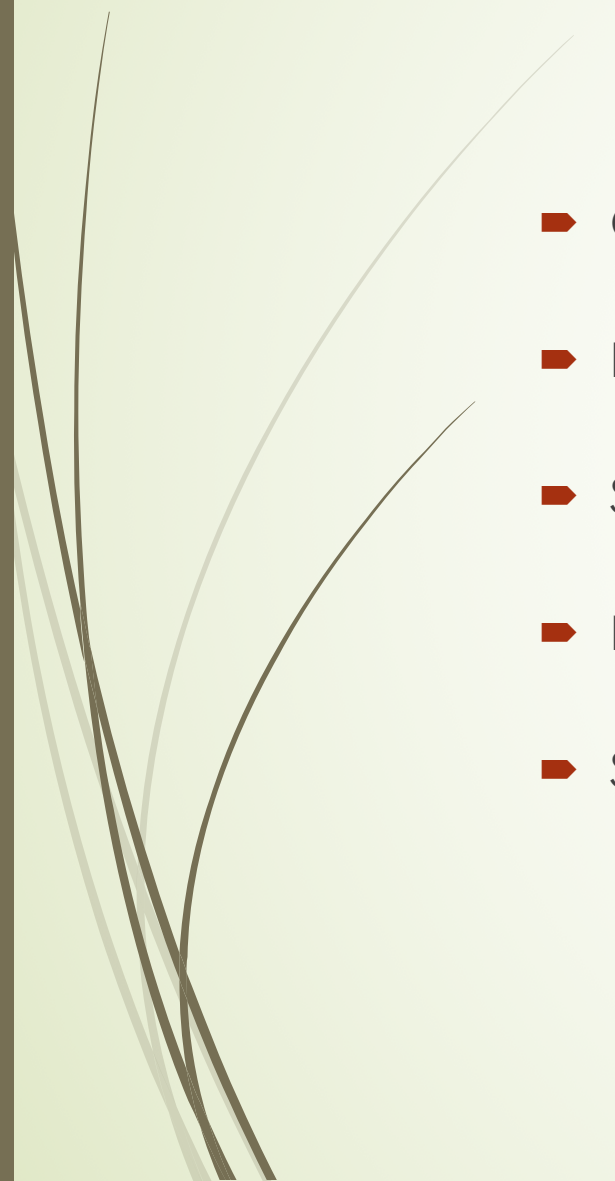


# *Asclepias curassavica*

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- ▶ This milkweed species has a woody based plant with stiff stems and narrow leaves.
  - ▶ The plant grows to approximately 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide.
  - ▶ This species is also documented in Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas, as well as California.



# *Asclepias curassavica*

- Other characteristics of this species are:
  - Drought Tolerant
  - Soil Types - Loam and Sand
  - Native to Mexico, Central America, and South America
  - Sometimes Invasive
  - NO MILKWEED.....NO MONARCH
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Monarch Butterfly



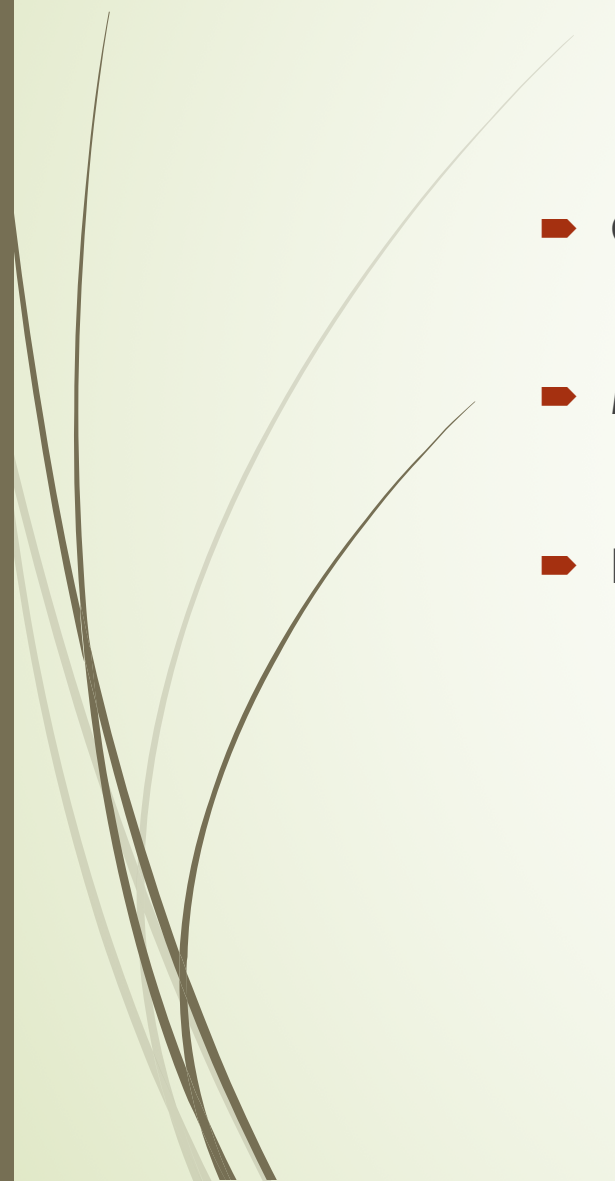
# Native California Milkweed Plants

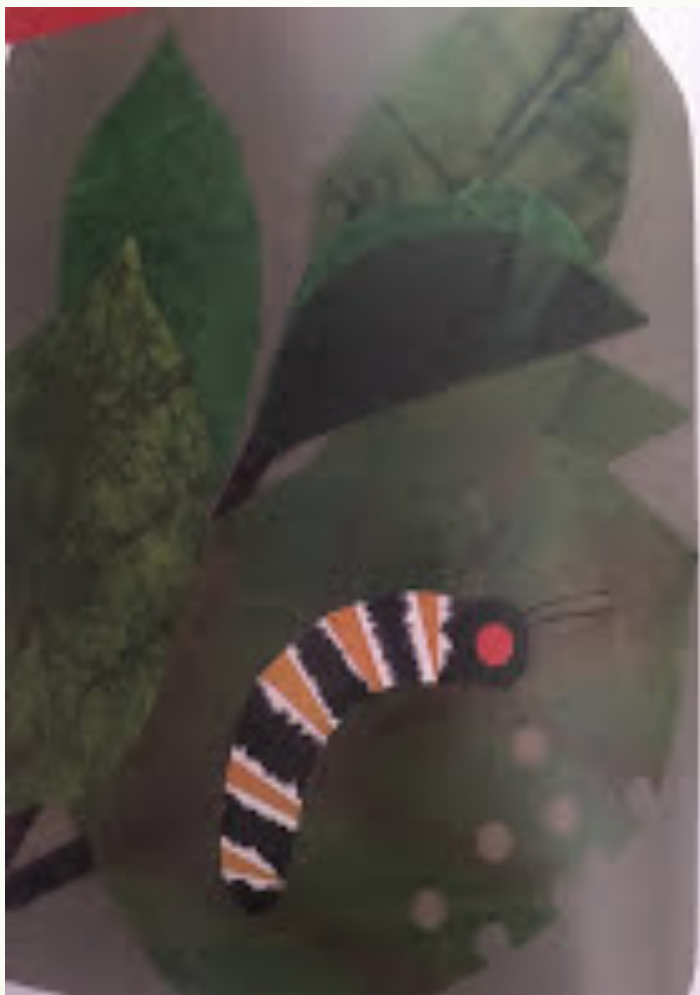
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- Butter flyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
  - Antelope-horns Milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*)
  - Showy Milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*)





# Native California Milkweed Plants

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- California Milkweed (*Asclepias californica*)
  - Mexican Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*)
  - Desert Milkweed (*Asclepias erosa*)









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Thank you

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