

Tamarix of North America

Barbara L. Wilson for the Carex Working Group

This key is based on information in Gaskin and Schaal (2003). *Tamarix ramosissima* seems to be the most common tamarisk in Oregon. *Tamarix ramosissima* and *T. chinensis* are hybridizing in North America, undergoing what Mary Barkworth has called “de-speciation.” Even if they weren’t, distinguishing them would be a challenge; filament insertion is just about impossible to determine, at least on pressed specimens, and the sepal margins are hard to see. The *T. canariensis* – *T. gallica* pair is also undergoing de-speciation in North America.

Please contact me with comments on the key. Please donate labeled *Tamarix* specimens to major herbaria, so that the invasion can be documented in detail.

Trullate = a flat shape that is widest below the middle and has straight margins; diamond-shaped with the wide part below the middle.

Gaskin, John F., and Barbara A. Schaal. 2003. Molecular phylogenetic investigation of U.S. invasive *Tamarix*. *Systematic Botany* 28(1): 86-95.

KEY:

1. Leaves so strongly clasping they look like little cups around the branch (so the branch can vaguely resemble an extremely thin *Equisetum* stem); leaves not drawn out into a point like a *Juniperus* needles *T. aphylla*
1. Leaves not clasping, but drawn out into a point, looking vaguely like *Juniperus* needles
 2. Flowers with 4 sepals, 4 petals, 4 stamens; leaves linear *T. parviflora*
 2. Flowers with 5 sepals, 5 petals, 5 stamens; leaves linear to ovate
 3. Nectar disk lobes wider than long (i.e., androecial disk hololophic)
 4. Racemes 3 – 4 mm wide; sepals eroded-denticulate; filament insertion hypodiscal (below the nectar disc) *T. ramosissima*
 4. Racemes 5 – 7 mm wide; sepals entire; filament insertion hypo-peridiscal (below to beside the nectar disc) *T. chinensis*
 3. Nectar disk lobes clearly longer than wide (i.e., androecial disk synlophic)
 5. Raceme 5 – 9 mm wide; petals trullate-ovate; rachis of raceme papillose *T. africana*
 5. Raceme 4 – 5 mm wide; petals elliptic to obovate; rachis of raceme papillose or glabrous
 6. Rachis of raceme papillose; petals obovate *T. canariensis*
 6. Rachis of raceme glabrous; petals elliptic *T. gallica*