



KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Perennial, evergreen herb with erect flowering stems (0.25-0.5 m long) and trailing non-flowering stems (1 m long), which root at the nodes.

flower

Solitary, borne in the axil of every other leaf. Violet or blue petals (2.5-3 cm long), salverform, equally five-parted, the tube hairy within. Five stamens alternate with the petal lobes. Flower stalks are 3-5 cm long.

stems

Contain a milky latex.

leaves

Shiny, dark green and are 2-3 cm long, opposite, round-ovate, and pinnately veined.

Leaf margins are fringed with hairs 0.1-0.4 mm long, and there are usually numerous hairs along the midribs on the upper surface. Blades have a heart-shaped base and are acute to obtuse at the apex.

fruit

2 slender cylindric follicles (pod opening on one side) are somewhat constricted between the seeds and about 4-5 cm long, and bear 3-5 seeds. The seeds are without hair.



Elevation:
Unknown

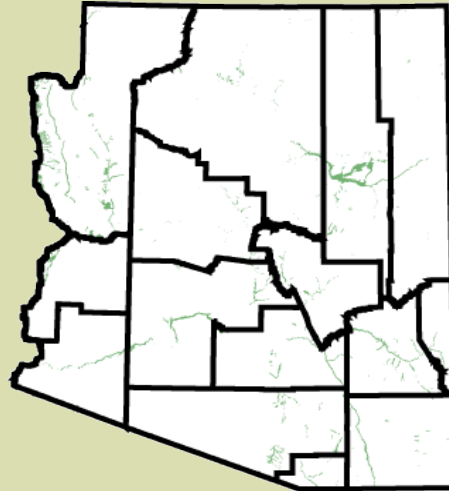
Ecotypes Invaded:
Riparian areas.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

The features of this species are larger throughout than those of *V. minor*, its closest living relative. Although both species are grown in cultivation, only *V. major* has established itself as a weed.

Found in natural forests, riparian zones, disturbed sites such as campgrounds and homesteads. In the wild it reproduces vegetatively producing trailing stems that root at the nodes, spreading over large areas.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

