

Weekly Plant Photo Edition

28 April 2019

Common Names: slender janusia, desert vine, propellerbush

Scientific name: *Cottsia gracilis* (formerly *Janusia gracilis*, name change tentative)

TAV location: on the Orange Trail. Enter the trail via the connector that begins opposite driveway for lots 133-136 on Langtry (there is a bench at the beginning of the connector). Turn right when you reach the trail. Look on the right side of the trail a bit after it narrows to pass between two prickly pear. There is a sign marking the plants.



Slender janusia is climbing up this small tree.



Slender janusia is a lovely small vine, leafless in winter but with half-inch lemon yellow flowers in spring, perhaps into summer and fall. The flowers are followed by showy red fruit, three connected samara (think maple seed) that give rise to the name "propellerbush". Both the leaves and the fruit are covered with soft hairs.

If growing without a nearby support, slender janusia twines around itself, forming a clump of foliage about 2' high. Give it something to twine around and up it goes, reaching as high as 10'. I saw no precautions against using this vine. It appears to be a great option not only for a trellis but to grow in and around other plants. It is fairly common along the lower trails in Saguaro-East, climbing when it can. It will survive on natural rainfall once established, as it does along the Orange Trail.