

## Pink Prickley Poppies

JOHN B. SIEGLINGER and H. L. Featherly

About one and a half miles west of Perkins Corner, highway No. 33 cuts through an old sand dune which is covered by a society of prickley poppy (*Argemone*). The prevailing species is *Argemone intermedia* Sweet and probably they all are, but this particular society is made up of both white and pink-flowered plants. The pink-flowered plants are fewer in number but are more or less uniformly distributed among the white-flowered ones. The white-flowered plants are common throughout this general area but the pink-flowered ones occur only on this one dune. It is not thought that the dune is responsible for this phenomena as similar dunes in the same area have no pink poppies.

The white poppies have white petals, honey-colored filaments and yellow anthers, while the pink ones have pink petals, red filaments and rufus anthers. These pink prickley poppies are the first that either of us has ever seen. In Kearney and Peeble's (1.) Key to the species of *Argemone*, their major division is "Petals pale yellow to orange"—"Petals white, occasionally tinged with pink." The flowers reported here are pink and do not intergrade to white. Bailey (2.) states that a variety of *A. platyceras* with rose-colored flowers is advertised. Cory and Parks (3.) list *A. sanguinea*, a red prickley poppy from Texas.

Seeds of the pink variety were collected in hopes that we could plant them and find how they segregated out.

1. Kearney, T. H. and R. H. Peebles. 1942. Flowering plants and ferns of Arizona. U. S. D. A. Misc. Pub. No. 423.
2. Bailey, L. H. 1949. Manual of cultivated plants. Macmillan Co., N. Y.
3. Cory, V. L. and H. B. Parks. 1937. Catalogue of the flora of Texas. Tex. Agri. Exp. Sta. Bull. 550.