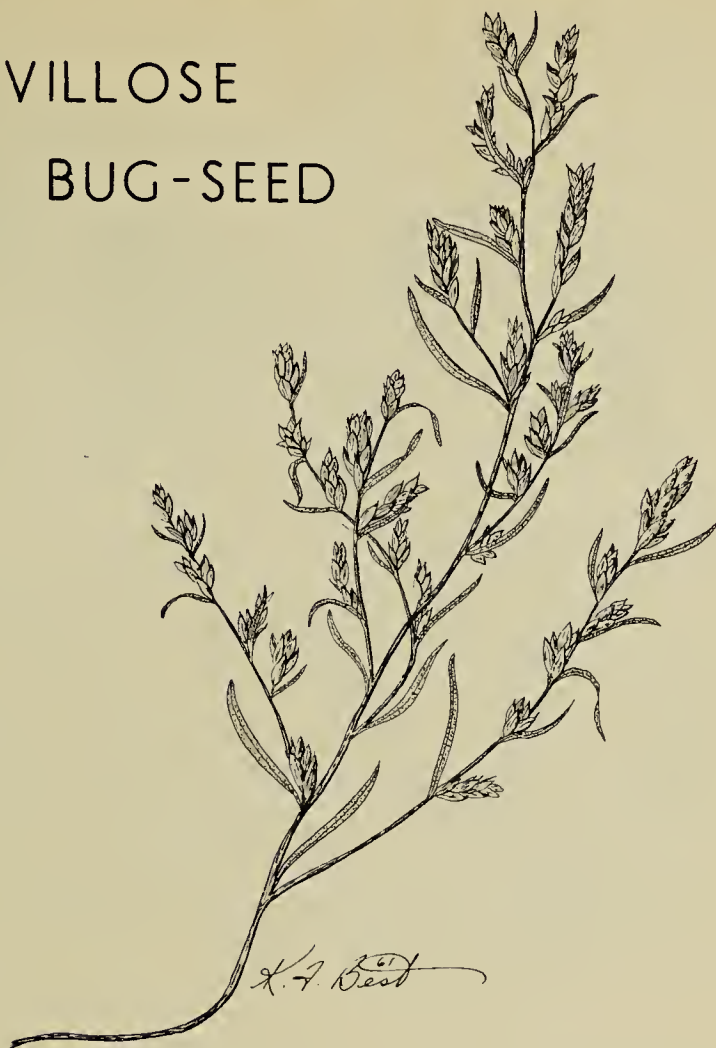


Sandhill Flora

by K. F. Best, Swift Current

VILLOSE BUG-SEED



Our series on plants which indicate soil types began with the grasses growing in the dry sand areas. We dealt with representatives of the duneland vegetation and then proceeded to plants of the sandhills. Before we leave the vegetation of the sandhills and move on to the dry hillsides and eroded areas, let's look at two more members of our sandhill communities.

Villose Bug-seed (*Corispermum villosum*) is a native annual with a branched growth habit and has pale green linear leaves about 1½ to 2 inches in length. Growing to a height of 18 inches, the plant has leaves and stems covered with fine, white star-shaped hairs. The flowers are in small clusters in the leaf axils and each flower has a small leaf-like bract reminding one of the glumes in a head of wheat. The seeds are brown, about ⅛ inch across, flat on one side and slightly convex on the other, giving rise to the common name. Quite plentiful in the sand-

hills of the southwest, this species is eaten by livestock and with its long roots, serves as a good sand binder.

A very similar plant, the Common Bug-seed (*Corispermum hyssoifolium*) differs only in the lack of hairs on the leaves and stem and in the seeds, which have a wing about the margins.

The Narrow-leaved Goosefoot (*Chenopodium leptophyllum*) is an erect growing annual with a stem grooved by yellow and green lines. The stem is somewhat mealy as in the common Lamb's Quarters. The leaves are long and narrow, the upper surface being pale green and mealy while the under areas are densely mealy. The leaves are up to 1 or 1½ inches in length and ¼ inch wide with margins that are generally entire. The flowers appear in small spikes in the axils of the upper leaves and at the summit of the stem. This species is very plentiful in the southwest on dry sandy soils, particularly in the sandhills.