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Author: Tamar Keasar Yoram Gerchman Simcha Lev-Yadun

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A seven-year study of flower-color polymorphism in a Mediterranean  
annual plant

Tamar Keasar\*, Yoram Gerchman and Simcha Lev-Yadun

Department of Biology and Environment, University of Haifa - Oranim, Tivon 36006,  
Israel

Running title: A seven-year study of flower-color polymorphism in *Silybum marianum*

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- The frequencies of *S. marianum*'s two flower-color morphs show a latitudinal cline.
- Flowering color did not affect the production, predation and abortion of seeds.
- Insect pollinators slightly preferred the rare, white morph.
- Nonetheless, the white morph decreased in frequency during a 7-year survey.
- Population bottlenecks may contribute to this decrease through genetic drift.

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: 972-52-871-8860; fax: 972-4-953-9608.

E-mail address: [tkeasar@research.haifa.ac.il](mailto:tkeasar@research.haifa.ac.il)

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