

Rare Plant Program Highlights

**CNPS Chapter Council
Camp Pollock, Sacramento
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Aaron E. Sims
Rare Plant Program Director
California Native Plant Society
asims@cnps.org



Welcome Adam Searcy (he/him)!



Rare Plant Program's
newest staff member,
Adam Searcy, collecting
plant vouchers in his field
press.

Rare Plant Inventory (RPI) Updates

rareplants.cnps.org

Selected References

CNPS Status Review: Proposed New Add to Rank 1B.2, G2 / S2 

Original Description: *Botany of California* 2:179 (1880) 

Taxonomic Treatment: *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* 15:188 (1888) 

Taxonomic Treatment: *Taxon* 43(3):353-366 (1994)

Taxonomic Treatment: *Madroño* 57(2):129-135 (2010)

Species Account: *Prosartes parvifolia* profile for potential Species of Conservation Concern evaluation (2018) 

Plant Detail page for [Prosartes parvifolia](#) in the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory displaying new Selected References.

RPI Advancements

New Threat List Coming Soon!

New Threat List search and display using Pleasant Valley mariposa-lily (*Calochortus clavatus var. avius*) as an example.

Funded by Schwemm Family Foundation and expected to be released in time for CNPS Conference.

Threat List Data from the CNDDDB		
Total EOs with threat listed:	104	79%
Total Threat List:	17	
Threat List	Total EOs	% of EOs
Logging	91	69%
Road/trail construction/maint.	35	27%
Grazing	30	23%
Erosion/runoff	14	11%
ORV activity	10	8%
Other	10	8%
Biocides	9	7%
Over-collecting/poaching	6	5%
Wood cutting or brush clearing	6	5%
Foot traffic/trampling	5	4%
Improper burning regime	5	4%
Non-native plant impacts	5	4%
Agriculture	3	2%
Development	3	2%
Mining	2	2%
Recreational use (non-ORV)	2	2%
Vandalism/dumping/litter	1	1%

Threat List

Use Ctrl or Shift-click to select multiple threats

- Agriculture
- Altered flood/tidal/hydrological regime
- Altered thermal regime
- Biocides
- Channelization
- Dam/inundation
- Degraded water quality

Status Reviews

Additions	Changes	Deletions	Retentions	Rejections	Postponed	Name Changes	Total
9	1	1	0	1	0	10	22



Monardella exilis was recently added to CRPR 4.2 (uncommon / watchlist; moderately threatened). Photo by Jean Pawek (CalPhotos).

California Rare Plant Rank 3

More Information Needed

Preliminary review completed for all [72 CRPR 3 plants](#) and categorized as follows:

- plants for which a Status Review could be completed immediately (**24 plants**);
- plants with uncertainty regarding geographic distribution or abundance (**9 plants**);
- taxonomic problems requiring new morphological or genetic data (**39 plants**).



[*Polystichum lonchitis*](#), a CRPR 3 plant for close to 40 years, was reviewed and deleted (Considered But Rejected) as being too common. Photo by Dana York.

Species of Conservation Concern (SCC)



Six new SCC accounts were written or removed from the list. As these are finalized, they are uploaded to the *new Potential Species of Conservation Concern* website.

Mud sedge (*Carex limosa*) is one of the SCC accounts finished this quarter. This plant is found in fens.
Photo by Steve Matson.

Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH)

Participants and partners from Latino Outdoors enjoyed learning about rare plants, birds, and the natural history of the Kern River Valley.



Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH)

Surveys and events focused in Kern County thanks to funding from the
Virginia and Alfred Harrell Foundation

Surveyed for the following rare plant taxa and more!

- Kern Canyon Clarkia (*Clarkia xantiana* ssp. *parviflora*)
- Greenhorn Fritillary (*Fritillaria brandegeei*)
- Shirley Meadows star tulip (*Calochortus westonii*)
- Transverse Range Phacelia (*Phacelia exilis*)
- Shevock's golden aster (*Heterotheca shevockii*)
- Tulare champion (*Silene aperta*)

Calochortus westonii, endemic to Greenhorn Mtns in Kern and Tulare cos. Largest population was affected by high burn severity in the French Fire.



California Plant Rescue (CaPR)

Led expeditions for seed collections in Modoc County and the Tahoe region
with RPTH, CNPS Floristics, and CaPR partners



RPTH Manager Amy Patten
looks for rare plants on
CaPR expedition in Tahoe.
Photo by Angela Pai.

California Plant Rescue (CaPR)

CNPS staff have made several CaPR collections throughout the state, including from Siskiyou, Shasta, Trinity, Nevada, and Sacramento counties.



CNPS Field Botanist Jordan Collins collects seeds of *Sagittaria sanfordii* in July 2022. Photo by Angela Pai.

Utom River Conservation

Field work has continued during the summer to document the botanical resources of the Santa Clara River Watershed, focusing on under-collected areas.

- New occurrences of plants are being recorded during every field excursion, including new records of rare plants and updated records from older reports.
- The Utom Conservation Fund (of which CNPS is a part of) has established a student scholarship fund for two categories:
 - 1) College-bound high school students that live within the watershed (\$2,500 each)
 - 2) Fellowship-like grants for grad or post-doc students that will conduct research in one of four areas related to the watershed (biology, water, culture, and botany)
- Details about these scholarships can be found on the Utom Conservation Fund website at <https://utomriverconservation.org/scholarship-program-a/>

Ventura Marsh Milk-Vetch (VMMV)

Astragalus pycnostachyus var. *lanosissimus* is a federally and state-endangered species with only one “natural” population in the world.

- CNPS received Section 6 (federal ESA) grant through CDFW to gather field info, resurrect extinct genetic lines, examine DNA of extinct lines, and identify potential suitable restoration sites.



- 30 seeds from three voucher specimens were collected and submitted to Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens for germination trials. Photos by David Magney.

Local Floras & Locally Rare Plants

Developing tools and procedures to efficiently, rapidly, and accurately create local floras and locally rare lists for all counties in California that currently lack them.

LOCAL FLORAS

- 44 counties lack a published flora
- Local Floras Committee is developing tools and procedures for botanists interested in creating a county flora

LOCALLY RARE PLANTS

- Lists exist for Ventura, Santa Barbara, Napa, San Mateo, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, and Alameda & Contra Costa counties
- 50 more lists needed to cover all 58 counties in California.

Botanist Certification

Becoming certified is good for the profession and for the environment.
Please sign up and encourage others to do so as well!

- **49 Certified Botanists** after exams last March
- Next exams will be held at CNPS Conference in [San Jose on 19 October 2022](#)
- Now three levels of certification:
 - 1) Associate Field Botanist (introductory)
 - 2) Field Botanist (intermediate)
 - 3) Consulting Botanist (advanced)
- Nominations for 4 of 8 Board of Certification seats requested in August; elections held in October for 2023-24 term
- Second **Professional Botanist Newsletter** was published in early July

Thank You!

- Chapters and Volunteers, Rare Plant Program Committee, CNPS Staff
- John Donoghue, RPI Developer
- Mark Naftzger, CNPS Web Designer
- Rare Plant Staff:
 - Jordan Collins, *Assistant Field Botanist*, jcollins@cnps.org
 - Utom, Local Floras
 - Ellen Dean, *Rare Plant Botanist*, edean@cnps.org
 - RPI Status Reviews, Species of Conservation Concern
 - Kaitlyn Green, *Rare Plant Data Coordinator*, kgreen@cnps.org
 - Data Submissions, GIS, RPI Updates, RPI Status Review Forum & Groups
 - David Magney, *California Floristics Specialist*, dmagney@cnps.org
 - Utom, VMMV, Local Floras, Locally Rare, Botanist Certification
 - Angela Pai, *Rare Seed Col. & Accessioning Lead*, apai@cnps.org
 - Rare Plant Seed Collections, California Plant Rescue
 - Amy Patten, *RPTH Manager*, apatten@cnps.org
 - Rare Plant Treasure Hunt, Rare Plant Surveys, Education & Research
 - Adam Searcy, *Rare Plant Scientific Coordinator*, asearcy@cnps.org
 - Species of Conservation Concern
 - Doug Stone, *Associate Rare Plant Botanist*, dstone@cnps.org
 - RPI Status Reviews, CRPR 3 Review, Species of Conservation Concern