

**CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of  
California**

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CALIFORNIA  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**PLANT DETAIL**

**Classification**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<i>Ephedra torreyana</i> S. Watson
<b>Common Name</b>	Torrey's Mormon-tea
<b>Family</b>	Ephedraceae
<b>Element Code Name</b>	PGEPH01080
<b>USDA Plants Symbol</b>	EPTO
<b>Synonyms/Other Names</b>	

**Conservation Status**

<b>California Rare Plant Rank</b>	2B.1
<b>Global Rank</b>	G5
<b>State Rank</b>	S1
<b>CESA</b>	None
<b>FESA</b>	None
<b>Other Status</b>	
<b>CRPR Changes</b>	changed from 2.1 to 2B.1 on 2013-06-12 added to 2.1 on 2012-02-08
<b>Date Added</b>	2/8/2012
<b>Last Change</b>	12/9/2021

**Ecology and Life History**

<b>Lifeform</b>	perennial evergreen shrub
<b>Blooming Period</b>	May
<b>Elevation: m (ft)</b>	765-810 (2510-2660)
<b>General Habitat</b>	Great Basin scrub
<b>General MicroHabitat</b>	Valley bottoms
<b>Micro Habitat</b>	Silt

**Element Occurrence Data from California Natural Diversity Database**

<b>Total Element Occurrences</b>	12
<b>Element Occurrence Ranks</b>	
Excellent (A)	0
Good (B)	6
Fair (C)	4
Poor (D)	1
None (X)	0

Unknown (U)	1
<b>Occurrence Status</b>	
Historical, > 20 years	0
Recent, < 20 years	12
<b>Presence</b>	
Presumed Extant	12
Possibly Extirpated	0
Presumed Extirpated	0

**Location**

**CA Endemic** No

**Counties**

Inyo (INY)

**States**

Arizona (AZ), California (CA), Colorado (CO), Nevada (NV), New Mexico (NM), Texas (TX), Utah (UT)

**Quads**

Calvada Springs (3511588), Mound Spring (3611518), Nopah Peak (3611611)

**Notes**

Definitions of codes preceding a county and/or quad:

\* Presumed extirpated

(\*) Possibly extirpated

Species may be present in other areas where conditions are favorable. These data should NOT be substituted for pre-project review or for on-site surveys.

**General Notes**

Discovered in CA in 2011; known in CA only from Pahrump Valley. Threatened by solar energy development. Potentially threatened by noxious weeds and vehicles. Similar to *E. trifurca* (and also to *E. funerea* when cones are not present). Not in *The Jepson Manual* (1993) and *TJM 2*. See *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* 14:299-300 (1879) for original description.

**Distribution**

**Threats**

**Taxonomy**

**Other**

**References**