

## Considered But Rejected: *Asclepias latifolia*

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### Background

Postponed on 7/5/2011 based on probable cause of never occurring in California an if present, is probably extirpated. In looking at this again, correspondence in Jepson Interchange states:

"Correspondence 4 indicates that for The Jepson Manual [Ed. 2] *Asclepias latifolia* (Torr.) Raf. is to be treated, at least for the time being, as a taxon that is extirpated in CA: Based on key in Woodson: [UC449991](#) (Tracy I. Storer; Jun 29, 1912; Rumsey, Yolo Co.), identified on label doubtfully as *Asclepias latifolia* (Torr.) Raf., may belong instead to *Asclepias eriocarpa* Benth. (peduncles in *A. latifolia* 0--1.5 cm, in *A. eriocarpa* 1--10 cm; on specimen +- 2.5 cm, and fls few and past their prime); the material in a photocopy of MO1170403 (R. W. Schery & E. Curtis; July 19, 1939, 30 miles west of Grant Park, Co. not indicated, but the only Grant Park in the Jepson Place Name Index is in sw Ventura Co., well within the range of *A. eriocarpa* and *A. erosa*, but quite far away from the one dot indicated in California for *A. latifolia* by Woodson, which evidently is in Inyo Co., possibly representing a locality within 30 miles -- but to the east -- of Sequoia National Park, sometimes known in 1939 as Grant Park), identified on label (handwritten on otherwise typed label) and on annotation by S. P. Lynch in 1984 as *Asclepias latifolia*, also may belong instead to *Asclepias eriocarpa*. Tim Lowrey (pers. comm.), who is familiar with the species in NM, remembers as a child plants possibly belonging to *Asclepias latifolia* occurring on dry washes near his family home near Rumsey (collection locality for [UC449991](#)). Final resolution will not occur at least until after a visit to the Rumsey area, planned for Spring of 2007, but until then it seems most judicious to treat this taxon as extirpated in CA."

The fact that the specimen has been described as doubtfully *A. latifolia*, and may instead be *A. eriocarpa*, along with other correspondence, indicates that this is likely a misidentification, and even if once occurred in California, it is possibly extirpated so there is likely no way to resolve this. Its occurrence in California is purely speculative at this time, with following correspondence from Tim Lowrey (Jepson Interchange, Correspondence 3):

"Now that you mention it I do remember an *Asclepias* that grew on our ranch and my recollection is that it was like *A. latifolia*, broad leaves for sure."

And later correspondence from Tim Lowrey with CNPS on 6/16/2011:

"... although I do remember that the *Asclepias* on our ranch in Rumsey was broad-leaved I never identified it properly. I can't say for sure what taxon it was/is."

Where is the evidence to support including this taxon in the CNPS Inventory? All that exists are two specimens that are doubtfully identified as *A. latifolia* with the notion they may instead belong to *A. eriocarpa*; a taxon that is well known and common throughout most of the state.

### Inventory Record

#### *Asclepias latifolia*

CBR: Doubtfully occurs in CA. Single specimens from YOL Co. (*Storer s.n.*, UC449991) and INY Co. (*Schery & Curtis 6*, MO1170403) were doubtfully identified as *A. latifolia*, with a note that they may instead belong to *A. eriocarpa*; a common taxon.