

Rare Plant Status Review:
Calochortus syntrophus

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Calochortus syntrophus is a perennial, bulbiferous herb in the Liliaceae. In their book, *Calochortus*, by Mary Gerritsen and Ron Parsons (2007) state that *C. syntrophus*, “grows in moist to wet thinly grassed, stony, somewhat sloped, open areas in oak woodland,” from approximately 525 to 885 meters in elevation. It is distinguished from other *Calochortus* species based on floral characteristics and its clustered growth habit caused by frequent bulb division. *C. syntrophus* flowers between May and June.

C. syntrophus is currently on CNPS List 3.1 (plants about which we need more information) of the CNPS Inventory. It was discovered by Frank Callahan, V. Thomas Parker, and John Erwin in June of 1993 and described by Callahan in *Herbertia* 49:20 (1993). It was placed on List 3 during the preparation of the 6th Edition of the CNPS Inventory, based on consensus that it was possibly not a distinct species, and should be considered a synonym of *C. superbis*. According to Peggy Fiedler (pers. comm. 2009) she has, “recognized it in the TJM2 (*Jepson Manual*, 2nd Edition) treatment. It is definitely a distinctive new taxon – with very localized distribution.”

C. syntrophus was previously known from just 2 occurrences in the Montgomery Creek area of Shasta County. A third occurrence is documented in Gerritsen and Parsons (2007), “... a few plants, with one remaining flower, were discovered in the Battle Creek area of Tehama County about 70km south of the type locality.” Callahan (1993) states that *C. syntrophus* has an “extremely limited population base,” estimated at between 500 and 1000 individuals.

Considering the rarity and the current taxonomic status of *C. syntrophus*, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that it be re-ranked from List 3.1 to List 1B.1.

Recommended Action

CNPS: Re-rank from CNPS List 3.1 to List 1B.1

CNDDDB: Keep on CNDDDB G1, S1

Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:

Calochortus syntrophus Callahan
Callahan's mariposa lily
Liliaceae
List 1B.1
Shasta, Tehama

Sent to NW, J. Game, T. Parker, R. Parsons, M. Gerritsen, P. Fiedler, F. Callahan on
2/26/09

Element Code: PMLIL0D1S0
Changed from CNPS List 3.1 to 1B.1 on 2009-04-17

Whitmore (645B) 4012168, Roaring Creek (663B)
Cismontane woodland; elevation 525-855 meters.
Herb (perennial, bulbiferous); blooms May-June.
Known from only two occurrences. Threatened by horticultural collecting. See
Herbertia 49:20 (1993) for original description.

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2/26/09