

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Carex amplexans***  
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**Background**

*Carex amplexans* is a perennial herb in the Cyperaceae. *C. amplexans* has long been a taxon recognized as native to California and is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993), and *The Flora of North America* (Vol. 23). *C. amplexans* will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). *C. amplexans* is differentiated from similar *Carex* species based on the relatively large size of its inflorescences and perigynia, and other characteristics. *The Flora of North America* indicates that, "*Carex amplexans* has characters of *C. specifica* and of *C. fracta*...and is poorly understood." *C. amplexans* blooms from May through August with mature perigynia present around mid-summer.

*C. amplexans* occurs in dry to wet meadows within coniferous forest habitats from 790 to 2160 meters in elevation. One occurrence has been reported growing along a stream in rocky soil.

*C. amplexans* is known from 9 counties in the ~~Klamath Mountains~~, Cascade Range, and the Sierra Nevada from Siskiyou County in the north to Tulare County in the south. Additionally, there is one disjunct California occurrence from Mt. San Jacinto in Riverside County. In Nevada, *C. amplexans* is known from the Sierra Nevada in Douglas County near Lake Tahoe. Specimens identified as *C. amplexans* from Arizona are questionable, as this beyond the range reported in historical and current literature ([specimens from Arizona are likely not \*C. amplexans\* \(D. Taylor pers. comm. 2008\)](#)). It is true that this species is known from a large number of counties and that it may represent an undercollected taxon. However, the current data indicate that, in California, *C. amplexans* is known from only about ~~22~~ 16 occurrences. Since herbarium specimens are the main source for most of the known locations, many of the sites are vague. More detailed location information for most occurrences is needed to correctly map *C. amplexans*.

~~Several historical and current collections have been made from Yosemite National Park~~ ([No \*C. amplexans\* in Yosemite NP according to Allison Colwell, July 2008](#)). Although the ownership of most of the occurrences is unknown, much of the land in the known range of this taxon is publicly-owned. No threats to *C. amplexans* have been reported. Suitable habitat within, and beyond, the known range of this species should be searched for additional occurrences. Historical occurrences of *C. amplexans* should be re-visited. Additionally, herbarium specimens of *C. specifica*, *C. fracta*, and *C. multcostata* should be examined for specimens of *C. amplexans* that may currently be mis-identified.

Based on the current information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Carex amplexans* be added to List 4B.3. [Postponed or List 3 until further research?](#)

Sent to NW, SN, SW, J. Mastrogioseppe, B. Ertter, D. Brainerd, D. Weixelman, & P. Zika on 6/27/08

### Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS ~~List 1B.3~~ [Postponed or List 3 until further research?](#)  
CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G3/ S3

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

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### Draft CNPS Inventory Record

*Carex amplectens* Mackenzie  
Cyperaceae  
List 1B.3

Tulare, Mariposa, Calaveras, Kern, Placer, El Dorado, Tuolumne, Siskiyou, Shasta, Riverside; Nevada, Arizona?  
Camp Nelson (308A) 3611825, Lodgepole (353C) 3611856, Tamarack (491A) 3812041, Breckenridge Mtn. (238A) 3511845, Homewood (583C) 3912012, Riverton (524C) 3812074, Pyramid Peak (523C) 3812072, Lodgepole (353C) 3611856, Ackerson Mtn. (456D) 3711977, Pulga (591C) 3912174, Onion Valley (598C) 3912078, Hetch Hetchy Reservoir (455B) 3711986, Yosemite Falls (455D) 3711975, McCloud (698C) 4112232, Half Dome (437A) 3711965, [Prospect Peak \(643D\) 4012153](#), Lake Eleanor (456A) 3711987  
Meadows (Medws), lower montane coniferous forest (LCFr), upper montane coniferous forest (UCFr); elevation 790-2160 meters.  
Perennial herb. Blooms May-August.