

**Rare Plant Status Review:**

***Carex constanceana***

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with assistance from Patrick McIntyre (CNPS)  
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*Carex constanceana* is a perennial herb in the Cyperaceae that is known in California from only a single population in Nevada County. Outside of California it is known from only two locations in Oregon and Washington. *C. constanceana* was synonymized with *C. petasata* in Hitchcock et al.'s *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*, but a recent DNA analysis revealed *C. constanceana* to be closely related to the rare California endemic *C. davyi* and not closely related to *C. petasata* (see Hipp et al. 2006). *C. constanceana* is currently recognized in the *Flora of North America*; however, there is no mention of the California specimen which was collected in 1999. The single California collection is described as occurring in duff under lodgepole pine. The collections from Oregon and Washington also report pine forests as the habitat for this species. *C. constanceana* can be distinguished from *C. davyi* by having 4 to 5 spikes, corm-like rootstocks and light green, thin leaves that are canaliculated. *C. davyi* usually has 3 spikes, rootstocks that are not corm-like and dark green leaves that are thin and flat.

*C. constanceana* is currently known in California from 1 occurrence and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

**Recommended Actions**

*Carex constanceana*

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.1

CNDDDB: G1 S1.1

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**Proposed CNPS Inventory Record**

***Carex constanceana* Stacey**

Cyperaceae

Constance's sedge

**List 1B.1**

Nevada; Oregon, Washington

554B? (Hobart Mills/3912042), 555A? (Independence Lake/3912043)

Subalpine coniferous forest; 2000 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms August

Known in California from a single occurrence in Nevada County. Formerly synonymized with *Carex petasata*. Not in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Leaf. West. Bot.*2(8): 123 (1938) for original description.