

**Changed to California Rare Plant Rank 2A in the CNPS Inventory on
September 15, 2015**

Rare Plant Status Review: *Carex scoparia* var. *scoparia*
Proposed Change from CRPR 2B.2, G5T5 / S1 to 2A, G5T5 / SX
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Background

Carex scoparia var. *scoparia* is a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 2B.2 plant in the Cyperaceae that has been included in the CNPS Inventory since the 5th edition (Skinner and Pavlik 1994). The plant had been known in California from only two occurrences, one in Plumas County and one in Shasta County. The Shasta County specimen was recently determined to be a misidentification, and the Plumas County occurrence was searched for in several recent, unsuccessful attempts. Therefore, it appears that *C. scoparia* var. *scoparia* is extirpated from California.

The first specimen of *Carex scoparia* var. *scoparia* collected in California was by *J.T. Howell 51848*, from Snake Lake in Plumas County in 1976. The specimen was examined by *Carex* expert B. Wilson and determined to be correctly identified (P. Zika pers. comm. 2015). *Carex* experts P. Zika and B. Wilson searched for the plants on the shores of Snake Lake in 2011, in addition to earlier attempts, but did not find it (P. Zika and A. Sims pers. comms. 2015). Additionally, a group of Rare Plant Treasure Hunt volunteers, including the first author, searched for the plant in the meadows along the northern and eastern shores of the lake in 2012, but were unable to find it.

The second purported specimen of *C. scoparia* var. *scoparia* from California was *W.S. Lennon, s.n.*, collected at Anderson in Shasta County in 1982. This specimen, however, was recently reviewed by B. Wilson and determined to be *Carex longii* (P. Zika pers. comm. 2015).

Earlier treatments, such as Mastrogiuseppe (1993) recognized *Carex scoparia* only at the species level. Therefore, clarification of a few additional herbarium records is warranted. Several specimens of a second infrataxon within the species, *Carex scoparia* var. *fulva*, are listed for Calaveras County (Consortium of California Herbaria, CCH, 2015). These plants are not attributable to *Carex scoparia* var. *scoparia*, however. *Carex scoparia* var. *fulva* is no longer recognized taxonomically (Ball and Reznicek 2002), and is tentatively being treated as a synonym of *Carex specifica*, a common plant (Jepson Flora Project 2015).

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend re-ranking *Carex scoparia* var. *scoparia* from CRPR 2B.2 to CRPR 2A. If more information on this plant becomes available in the future, we will re-evaluate its status at that time.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Re-rank *Carex scoparia* var. *scoparia* from CRPR 2B.2 to CRPR 2A

CNDDDB: Re-rank *Carex scoparia* var. *scoparia* from G5T5 / S1 to G5T5 / SX

Current CNPS Inventory Record

Carex scoparia Willd. var. *scoparia*

pointed broom sedge

CRPR 2B.2

Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
Plumas, Shasta

Meadow Valley (590A) 39121H1, Balls Ferry (628B) 40122D2

Great Basin scrub (mesic); elevation 130-1220 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms May.

Available online at <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/detail/1612.html>

Revised CNPS Inventory Record

Carex scoparia Willd. var. *scoparia*

pointed broom sedge

CRPR 2A

Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
Plumas

Meadow Valley (590A) 39121H1

Great Basin scrub (mesic); elevation 1210 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms May.

SHA Co. specimen was determined to be *C. longii*. Recent surveys for PLU Co.

occurrence unsuccessful. See *Species Plantarum, Editio quarta* 4(1):230-231 (1805) for original description.

Literature Cited

Ball, P.W., and A.A. Reznicek. 2002. *Carex*. Pp. 254-572 in Flora of North America Editorial Committee (eds.), Flora of North America North of Mexico, Vol. 23. New York and Oxford.

Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH). 2015. Data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria. Regents of the University of California, Berkeley. Website <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium> [accessed 7 August 2015].

Sent to: NW, SN, B. Wilson, P. Zika, on 08/11/2015

Jepson Flora Project (eds.). 2015. *Jepson eFlora*. Website <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/IJM.html> [accessed 23 June 2015].

Mastrogiuseppe, J. 1993. *Carex*. Pp. 1107-1138 in Hickman, J.C. (ed.), *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Schkuhr, C. ex C.L. von Willdenow. 1805. *Species Plantarum*, Editio quarta 4(1):230-231. (original description).

Skinner, M.W. and B.M. Pavlik (eds.). 1994. *California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*. Special Publication No. 1 (Fifth Edition). California Native Plant Society, Sacramento. 338 pp.