

Rare Plant Status Review: *Chamaesyce glyptosperma*
Kristi Lazar (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDB),
with assistance from Patrick McIntyre (CNPS)
September 28, 2006

Background

Chamaesyce glyptosperma is an annual member of the Euphorbiaceae. While this is a widespread species in much of the United States and Canada, in California *C. glyptosperma* is known from approximately 9 occurrences in Butte, Placer, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Tehama, and Yolo Counties. The majority of populations of this species are not ranked or are ranked as secure (S4 or S5); however, in Alberta Canada this species is ranked as vulnerable (S3), while in three other provinces from Canada (Ontario, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island) and Michigan this species is considered an exotic. In addition, there is a non-native population in Southern California (see Jepson 1925). *The Jepson Manual* (1993) mentions this as an uncommon species known from near Redding. Most recently this species was found by Carol Witham in a large playa pool in Solano County in 2000. The habitat of the species in California is foothill woodlands and large playas between 200 and 300 meters in elevation.

Due to the widespread nature of this species and its “weedy” tendencies, we do not feel comfortable with listing it as a CNPS List 1B plant. An e-mail to Daryl Koutnik, author of the Jepson Manual treatment for this species; confirms the uncertainty as to the nativity of the species. He mentions that “the collections of this species in so few locations suggest that it may have been introduced through human means”. We would therefore suggest CNPS List 3 or to not list the species at this time. Until more information is gathered on this species, it is difficult to determine whether it is native to California. *C. glyptosperma* requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 3.3

CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G5 / S2.3?

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

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

<i>Chamaesyce glyptosperma</i> (Engelm.) Small “ridge-seeded broomspurge” List 3 Butte, Placer, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Tehama, Yolo; and elsewhere 498D [Dozier/3812137], 513B? [Grays Bend/3812166], 527A [Auburn/3812181], 560D [Honcut/3912135], 593C [Nord/3912178], 593D [Richardson Springs/3912177], 594A? [Vina/3912281], 647C? [Redding/4012254] Playas, vernal pools, cismontane woodland; elevation 200-300 meters.	Euphorbiaceae
---	---------------

Annual herb, blooms June-Sept.

Move to List 1B? Is plant native in California? Known in California from approximately 9 occurrences. Non-native population in LAX. See *Bot. Mex. Bound.* 2(1): 187 (1859) for original description (as *Euphorbia glyptosperma*) and *Flora of the Southeastern U.S.*: 712, 1333 (1903) for revised nomenclature.