

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Corispermum americanum* var. *americanum*
Proposed New Add to List 2.2**

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Background

Corispermum americanum var. *americanum* is an herbaceous annual in the Chenopodiaceae. *C. americanum* var. *americanum* is included as native to California in *The Flora of North America* (Vol. 4) and will be included as native to California in *The Jepson Manual*, 2nd edition (Fred Hrusa, pers. comm. 2008). *C. americanum* var. *americanum* is the only member of the genus in California and is distinguished from other *Corispermum* taxa based on fruit characteristics. *C. americanum* var. *americanum* flowers in May.

Paleobotanical evidence shows that *Corispermum* contains a number of species native to North America. Previously, in many floras, plants now called *C. americanum* var. *americanum* were treated as the non-native, *C. hyssopifolium* (Fred Hrusa, pers. comm. 2008).

In California, *C. americanum* var. *americanum* is found in desert dune habitats from 880 to 1035 meters in elevation. Associated taxa are reported to include *Swallenia alexandrae* (CNPS List 1B.2), *Stanleya pinnata*, and *Salsola* sp.

In California, *C. americanum* var. *americanum* is known from only three occurrences in two locations in Eureka Valley of Inyo County. Occurrences are located at the base of the Eureka Dunes and at the mouth of Marble Canyon. *C. americanum* var. *americanum* also occurs in (and is considered native to) most states in the continental U.S. and several provinces in Canada. It is ranked as a G5?T5? taxon by NatureServe. According to Fred Hrusa (pers. comm. 2008), *C. americanum* var. *americanum* is "widespread otherwise in N. America, although apparently never common." *C. americanum* var. *americanum* has not been documented in California since 1983. Suitable habitat in the vicinity of the California occurrences should be searched for additional occurrences. The population size at California occurrences is unknown.

The California occurrences of *C. americanum* var. *americanum* are located on land managed by Death Valley National Park. *C. americanum* var. *americanum* is possibly threatened by recreational activities.

Based on this information CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *C. americanum* var. *americanum* be added to CNPS List 2.2.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

Sent to ES/D, F. Hrusa on 3/17/09

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G5?T5? / S1

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.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Corispermum americanum (Nuttall) Nuttall var. *americanum*

American bugseed

Chenopodiaceae

List 2.2

Inyo; Arizona, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

East of Joshua Flats (391A) 3711727, Last Chance Range SW (390C) 3711716

Desert Dunes. 880-1035 meters

Annual herb. Blooms May.

Possibly threatened by recreational activities.