

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Coryphantha chlorantha***

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**Background**

*Coryphantha chlorantha* is a stem succulent in the Cactaceae. This species is known in California from approximately 7 occurrences in Inyo and San Bernardino Counties. This species is also known from Arizona, Nevada, and Utah (S1). Reported occurrences from Riverside and Imperial Counties are likely erroneous. *C. chlorantha* is in *The Jepson Manual* (1993) as *Escobaria vivipara* var. *deserti*. *C. chlorantha* is planned to be included in the new *Jepson Manual* as a new name for a taxon treated in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). This species is also included in the *Flora of North America*, which mentions that *C. chlorantha* is vegetatively identical to *C. vivipara* and flowers are needed to distinguish the two species. *C. chlorantha* occurs in calcareous, rocky soils in Mojave and Sonoran desert scrub, Joshua tree "woodlands", and Pinyon and juniper woodlands. This species can flower April through September and occurs from 300 meters to 2400 meters in elevation. Because this species occurs on limestone slopes in the desert, mining is a potential threat to the species.

*C. chlorantha* is currently known in California from approximately 7 occurrences in 2 counties and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G2G3 / S2.2

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*****Coryphantha chlorantha* (Engelmann) Britton & Rose**

Cactaceae

"desert pincushion"

List 2.2

Inyo, San Bernardino; Arizona, Nevada, Utah

226A [Mescal Range/3511545], 226B [Valley Wells/3511546], 249D [Clark Mtn./3511555], 250D? [East of Kingston Spring/3511557], 323B [Echo Canyon/3611646]

Mojavean desert scrub, Sonoran desert scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Pinyon and juniper woodland / calcareous, rocky, gravelly; elevation 300-2400 meters.

Stem succulent, blooms April-June (September).

Potentially threatened by mining. Can be confused with *Coryphantha vivipara*. See *Rep. Bot.* 6:127 (1878) for original description and *The Cactaceae* 4: 43 (1923) for revised nomenclature.