

**Added to List 1B.2 on 11/20/08**

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Cryptantha circumscissa* var. *rosulata*  
New Add to List 1B.2**

Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)  
September 24, 2008

Changes made since the original status review appear in blue.

**Background**

*Cryptantha circumscissa* var. *rosulata* is an annual herb in the Boraginaceae endemic to California. It was originally described by John Thomas Howell in *Leaflets of Western Botany* 6(5):102-105 (1951). *C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata* is included in Munz (1959), but is treated as a synonym of *C. circumscissa* in *The Jepson Manual* (1993) and *The Jepson Desert Manual* (2002). According to Ron Kelley (pers. comm. 2008), *C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata* will be included as a taxon native to California in *The Jepson Manual* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). *C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata* is distinguished from other varieties of *C. circumscissa* based on its comparatively small size, leaf shape, style length, and the characteristics of its pubescence ("substrigose, the hairs on the stems and leaves more or less appressed" (Howell 1951)). *C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata* flowers between July and August.

*C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata* occurs on coarse, granitic gravels in subalpine coniferous forest and alpine habitats from 2950 to 3660 meters in elevation.

*C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata* is known from 7 occurrences in Inyo and Tulare Counties. Occurrences are restricted to the Cottonwood Lakes Basin and near Mulkey Pass (the Horseshoe Meadows area) in Inyo County, and near the top of Army Pass, the Siberian Pass area, Whitney Meadows, and Olancha Peak in Tulare County. Since herbarium specimens are the main source of location information for most of the known occurrences, some sites are vague. More detailed location information is needed to correctly map *C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata*. Suitable habitat within and beyond range of *C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata* should be searched for additional occurrences.

All known occurrences of *C. circumscissa* var. *rosulata* occur in [Sequoia National Park](#), and in the Golden Trout and John Muir Wildernesses. In spite of the relatively intact habitat at these locations, a hiking trail runs through one of the occurrences in the Cottonwood Lakes Basin, and the occurrence near Army Pass. [Additionally, all occurrences in the Golden Trout Wilderness are threatened by livestock trampling.](#)

Consequently, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Cryptantha circumscissa* var. *rosulata* be added to List 1B.2

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G5T3? / S2

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**

*Cryptantha circumscissa* (Hook. & Arn.) I.M. Johnston var. *rosulata* J.T. Howell

Rosette cushion cryptantha

Boraginaceae

List 1B.2

Inyo, Tulare

Cirque Peak (329B) 3611842, Johnson Peak (330A) 3611843, Olancha (329D) 3611831

Alpine (AlpBR), Subalpine coniferous forests (SCFrS) / gravelly (coarse), granitic; elevation 2950-3660 meters.

Annual herb. Blooms July-August.

Known from fewer than ten occurrences. Threatened by foot traffic [and trampling](#).

See *Leaflets of Western Botany* 6(5): 102-105 (1951) for original description.