

## Rare Plant Status Review: *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin*

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### Background

*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin* is a perennial member of the Orchidaceae. *C. parviflorum* var. *makasin* is currently known in California from only one collection from Sierra County by M. Alice King (date unknown). While the specimen was originally described as *Cypripedium montanum*, it was annotated as *Cypripedium calceolus* var. *parviflorum* (now *C. parviflorum*) by an expert in the field, Charles Sheviak of the New York State Museum. In a letter to Ronald Coleman (author of *The Wild Orchids of California*) in 1991, Sheviak states that “the specimen is a perfect example of *parviflorum*”. However, Coleman believes that the location note on the specimen sheet is incorrect and did search the Union Hill area in 1992 to no avail.

As just mentioned, this species can be mistaken for *C. montanum*, which is white “slipper” whereas *C. parviflorum* var. *makasin* is yellow “slipper” with brown sepals. Review of herbarium specimens identified as *C. montanum* may yield further discoveries of this species. *C. parviflorum* var. *makasin* is not included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993); however, it is planned to be included in the new edition as a species native to California. *C. parviflorum* var. *makasin* is fairly widespread outside of California. It is known from Alaska, Connecticut (S2), Illinois (S1), Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts (S1), Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey (S2), New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont (S3), Washington, and Wisconsin (S3). It is also known from throughout Canada, Europe, and Asia. The habitat of the species is in mesic to wet fens and meadows, as well as open coniferous forests and mixed forests, mostly between 0 and 1500 meters in elevation. More populations of *C. parviflorum* var. *makasin* may be discovered upon further review of *C. montanum* specimens from California herbaria. This species is currently known in California from only one historical occurrence and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

### Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 3.1

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G5T4Q / S1.1

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

***Cypripedium parviflorum* Salisb. var. *makasin* (Farw.) Sheviak**

Orchidaceae

“northern yellow lady’s slipper”

List 3.1

Sierra County ?; Colorado, Oregon\* and elsewhere

574D ? [Strawberry Valley/3912151]

Sent to SN Review Group 9/1/06; added to List 3.1 9/29/06

Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps / mesic; elevation 0-1500 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms May-August.

Move to List 1B? Relocation and verification needed. Known in California from only one historical occurrence in Sierra County. Plant from Sierra County needs verification. See *Report of the Michigan Academy of Science* 20: 198 (1918) for original variety description as *Cypripedium pubescens* var. *makasin* and the *American Orchid Society Bulletin* 62: 403 (1993) for taxonomic revision. Possibly threatened by horticultural collecting and logging.