

Added to List 2 in CNPS Inventory on 1 March 2006

Rare Plant Status Review: *Delphinium scaposum*
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with assistance from Patrick McIntyre (CNPS Intern)
January 23, 2006

Background

Delphinium scaposum is a perennial herb previously known from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. Distinguishing characteristics include its scapose stems and blue flowers. DeGroot published the first three California occurrences of *Delphinium scaposum* as a Noteworthy Collection in Madrono 52(2):125 (2005). All three California occurrences are located in the Whipple Mountains in San Bernardino County. DeGroot describes the occurrences as located on rocky slopes and the rocky banks of a wash. Associated species reported in the Madrono article include *Larrea tridentata*, *Fouquieria splendens* ssp. *splendens*, *Encelia farinosa*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *polifolium*, *Eriogonum inflatum*, *Lycium andersonii*, and *Lycium fremontii*. Of note is the observation that the California occurrences are from below the previously described lower elevation limit of 1200m for this species. Outside of California this species inhabits juniper woodlands, grasslands, rocky hillsides, mesas and open deserts in the Sonoran and Transition zones. There are no immediate threats known to its survival in California because it occurs in remote, infrequently visited areas. Although *Delphinium scaposum* is widespread outside of California in the desert Southwest, it is known in California from only three occurrences with fewer than 20 individuals total, and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2

CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G4G5 / S1.3

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

***Delphinium scaposum* Greene**

Ranunculaceae

"Bare-stem larkspur"

List 2

San Bernardino, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Sonora, Mexico

121C [Whipple Mountains SW/3411434], 120C [Gene Wash/3411432]

Sonoran desert scrub / rocky, sometimes washes; elevation 269-1055 meters.

Perennial herb; blooms March-April; fruits April-May

Known in California from only three occurrences in the Whipple Mountains. Not in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Botanical Gazette* VI:156-157 (1881) for original description, *Flora of North America*

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3:215 (1997) and *Univ. Colorado Stud., Ser. D, Phys. Sci* 2:55-244 (1945) for taxonomic treatment, and *Madrono* 52(2): 125-126 (2005) for information on first records in California.