

**Rare Plant Status Review:**  
***Eriogonum luteolum* var. *caninum***  
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*Eriogonum luteolum* var. *caninum* is a low spreading annual herb in the Polygonaceae. *E. luteolum* var. *caninum* is rare and local on serpentine soil in Marin and Alameda Counties. In addition, there is a single historical occurrence that reaches into Sonoma County that was collected near Petaluma. There is also a single collection from Contra Costa County. Occurrences from Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Point Reyes in Marin County are thought to be extirpated as they have not been seen since the late 1800's.

This species has been included on CNPS List 3 since the first edition of the CNPS Inventory in 1974. The reason for this taxon being included on List 3 (plants about which we need more information) is because of difficulty with identification resulting in plants of *E. luteolum* var. *luteolum* and *E. nortonii* being identified as *E. luteolum* var. *caninum*. Specimens in herbaria are often misidentified as these two taxa and plants located north of Tiburon (especially on Mt. Tamalpais) are not always clearly distinguishable from var. *luteolum*. Despite difficulty with identification, it seems reasonable at this time to move *E. luteolum* var. *caninum* from CNPS List 3 to CNPS List 1B. There are only about 30 occurrences of this taxon known and several of these occurrences are likely extirpated. While plants north of Tiburon may be intergrading with var. *luteolum*, the var. *caninum* is distinct on the Tiburon peninsula and in Alameda County. *E. luteolum* var. *caninum* is nearly endemic to Marin and Alameda Counties.

Populations of *E. luteolum* var. *caninum* are preserved near Old St. Hilary's Chapel in the John Thomas Howell Botanic Garden and at The Nature Conservancy's Ring Mountain Preserve in Marin County. In Alameda County, populations are preserved at Redwood Regional Park near Oakland. While in a good year *E. luteolum* var. *caninum* can be locally abundant, loss of habitat and competition from non-native plants are progressively reducing the number of viable populations.

Because of the confusion as to where *E. luteolum* var. *caninum* is restricted appears to have been mostly resolved, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that its status be raised from List 3 to List 1B and afforded the protection associated with a 1B plant.

**Recommended Action**

**CNPS:** Re-rank from CNPS List 3 to CNPS List 1B.2.

**CNDDDB:** Keep on CNDDDB G5T3 S3.2.

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**Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:**

***Eriogonum luteolum* E. Greene var. *caninum* (E. Greene) Reveal**

"Tiburon wild buckwheat"

Polygonaceae

**List 1B.2**

Alameda, Contra Costa\*, Marin, Sonoma\*

465C [Oakland East/3712272], 466B [San Quentin/3712284], 467A [San Rafael/3712285], 467B [Bollinas/3712286], 484B [Petaluma/3812226], 484C [San Geronimo/3812216], 485C\* [Drakes Bay/3812218]

Valley and foothill grassland, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie (serpentine, sandy to gravelly); elevation 0-700 meters.

Herb (annual), blooms May-September.

Not clearly distinguishable from var. *luteolum* north of Tiburon. Threatened by development and non-native plants. See *Flora Franciscana*, pp. 150-151 (1891) by E. Greene for original description, and *Phytologia* 66(4):378-379 (1989) for alternative treatment which restricts var. *caninum* to Alameda and Marin Counties.