

Rare Plant Status Review: *Eriogonum microthecum lacus-ursi*
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Background

Jim Reveal has described a new variety of *Eriogonum microthecum* in *Phytologia* 86(3):137(2004). *Eriogonum microthecum* var. *lacus-ursi* is restricted to the Bear Valley in the San Bernardino Mountains. It is known from a single occurrence, comprised of approximately 100 plants, on the south shore of Big Bear Lake. This plant is not only rare, but also very imperiled because it is located in an area subject to development as noted in the recent FNA treatment. This plant requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and CNDDB. The narrative from the *Phytologia* article is included below.

The Bear Lake wild buckwheat, *Eriogonum microthecum* var. *lacus-ursi* (from the Latin *lacus*, lake, and *ursus* bear, for the location), is known only from Bear Valley in the San Bernardino Mountains, San Bernardino Co., California (see Reveal 1971). It is restricted to a single site where there are approximately a hundred individuals. The variety is somewhat similar to the nearby var. *johnstonii* Reveal, a plant of higher elevations (2600-2900 m vs. 2050 m) that occurs in the upper reaches of the San Gabriel Mountains near the San Bernardino-Los Angeles county line. Although the flowering stems of var. *lacus-ursi* may be thinly floccose (and thus like that of var. *johnstonii*), more often the stems are glabrous.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B

CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G1 / 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 CNDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Eriogonum microthecum Nuttall var. *lacus-ursi* Reveal & A.Sanders

"Bear Lake buckwheat"

List 1B / RED 3-3-3

San Bernardino

105B [Big Bear Lake / 341628]

Lower montane coniferous forest / clay outcrops; elevation 2000-2100 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms July-August.

Known from only one small occurrence in Bear Valley in the San Bernardino Mountains. Not in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Phytologia* 86(3):137(2004) for original description.