

**Added to California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2 in the CNPS Inventory on
September 13, 2016**

Rare Plant Status Review: *Eryngium jepsonii*

Proposed Addition to California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2, G2 / S2

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Changes made to the original document are in blue text.

Background

Eryngium jepsonii J.M. Coult. & Rose is a perennial herb in the Apiaceae found in shallow vernal pools from Napa to San Mateo County. It was described by Coulter and Rose (1900) and is not included in *The Jepson Manual* (Constance 1993), but is included in *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* (Preston et. al. 2012); the *Flora of North America* treatment of Apiaceae (Vol. 13) is not yet published. *Eryngium aristulatum* var. *aristulatum* was previously misapplied, in part, to *E. jepsonii* (Preston et. al. 2012). For the treatment of *Eryngium* in *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition*, Preston and Park separated *E. jepsonii* from *E. aristulatum* var. *aristulatum* due to distinct differences in ecology and morphology (R. Preston pers. comm. 2016).

Eryngium jepsonii is distinguished from *E. aristulatum* in being a stout erect plant (versus slender to stout and decumbent to erect), with a leaf blade that tapers to its base (versus a leaf blade that is abrupt-narrowed at base), an obscure petiole (versus a small petiole), a 1-2mm sepal tip to spine length (versus less than 1mm sepal tip to spine length), and the outer bracts being larger than two times the size of the inner bracts (versus the outer bracts being less than two times the size of inner bracts in *E. aristulatum*) (Preston et. al. 2012).

Eryngium jepsonii occurs in shallow vernal pools, low places in valley fields, and in flats of hills (Jepson 1923) throughout valley and foothill grassland, and is believed to be found only in soils with moderate to high clay content (M. Park pers. comms. 2016). It is known from an approximate elevation of 3-300 meters (Google Inc. 2015), and blooms from April to August (Preston et. al. 2012).

Eryngium jepsonii is only known from approximately 19 occurrences (comprised of 30 collections) throughout the southern Inner North Coast Range, Deltaic Greater Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Area of California. Four of the 18 occurrences are historical (occurrences not seen in over 20 years are considered historical by the CNDDDB), and two of the historical occurrences are considered possibly extirpated due to development and urbanization (EO #s 6 and 18). Since *E. aristulatum* var. *aristulatum* was partially misapplied to *E. jepsonii* in the past, there is a potential for some of its collection records to be misidentifications of *E. jepsonii*. However, although there are currently over 200 collections of *E. aristulatum* var. *aristulatum* in the Consortium of California Herbaria (2016), it is unlikely that a significant amount are actually *E. jepsonii* because M. Park (pers. comm. 2016) performed an exhaustive review of specimens while drafting *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* treatment. *Eryngium jepsonii* is

known mostly from managed land, with 11 occurrences lying throughout eight different regional parks and preserves; the remaining eight occurrences have an unknown landowner.

There are currently no known direct threats to *E. jepsonii*. Six of its occurrences are within the East Bay Regional Park District, which is in the process of developing land use plans in areas where *E. jepsonii* occurs (H. Bartosh pers. comm. 2016); however, it is unknown whether this will lead to any potential threats to this species.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend adding *Eryngium jepsonii* to California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2 of the CNPS Inventory. If knowledge on the distribution, threats, and rarity status of *E. jepsonii* changes in the future, we will re-evaluate its status at that time.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add *Eryngium jepsonii* to CRPR 1B.2

CNDDDB: Add *Eryngium jepsonii* to G2 / S2

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Eryngium jepsonii J.M. Coult. & Rose

Jepson's ~~coyote thistle~~ ~~button-celery~~

Apiaceae

CRPR 1B.2

Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Mateo, Solano, Yolo

Aetna Springs (516B) 3812264, Antioch South (464A) 3712187, Benicia (482C)

3812212, Briones Valley (465B) 3712282, Cordelia (482B) 3812222, Diablo (464C)

3712178, Hayward (447A) 3712261, Las Trampas Ridge (465D) 3712271, Oakland

East (465C)? 3712272, Palo Alto (428B) 3712242, Saxon (497B) 3812146, St. Helena

(516C) 3812254, Walter Springs (516A) 3812263, Yountville (500A)(?) 3812243

Vernal pools, valley and foothill grassland / clay; elevation 3-300 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms April to August.

Similar to *E. aristulatum* var. *aristulatum*, with which it was previously misapplied (in part). See *Contributions from the United States National Herbarium* 7(1):54 (1900) for original description.

Literature Cited

Consortium of California Herbaria. 2016. Data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria. Regents of the University of California, Berkeley. Website <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/> [accessed 5 July 2016].

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