

Rare Plant Status Review:

Fraxinus parryi

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Fraxinus parryi is a shrub to small tree in the Oleaceae that is known in California from two occurrences in San Diego County. It is considered widespread in northwest Baja California. This species occurs in California in open mixed chaparral and in the chaparral- sagescrub interface between 213 meters and 620 meters in elevation. This species was not included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993).

There has been some confusion over what to call this *Fraxinus* species which is known from Baja California and 2 occurrences in extreme Southern California. It was previously called *Fraxinus dipetala* var. *trifoliolata* by Torrey in 1859, who was unsure as to whether it was distinct from *Fraxinus dipetala* as he had no flowers of "var. *trifoliolata*" to compare to *F. dipetala*. In 1940, Lewis and Epling described more fully the "var. *trifoliolata*" and determined it to be a separate species from *F. dipetala*. This distinct species status was also maintained in Wiggins 1964 and Wiggins 1980. Lewis and Epling (and later Wiggins) called this species *F. trifoliata* but probably meant to call it *trifoliolata* (based on the variety name). It turns out that *F. trifoliolata* is the scientific name of a Chinese ash and *F. trifoliata* is therefore a homonym of *F. trifoliolata* and not a legitimate name to call this species. For this reason, in 2001 Reid Moran gave this species a new name- *F. parryi*. Beauchamp in his book "A Flora of San Diego County, CA" called the plant *F. jonesii*; however, the specimen actually corresponds to *F. parryi*. See *Aliso* 20(1): 17-20 for a more detailed explanation of this species nomenclature and taxonomy.

The author for the treatment of *Fraxinus* in the new edition of *The Jepson Manual*, James Henrickson, plans to include *F. parryi* in his treatment. He notes that while he has not seen the San Diego sites, he has collected it in Baja California and that it is distinct from *F. dipetala*.

Despite the confusion over the proper name to call this species, it is only known from 2 California occurrences and deserves inclusion on a CNPS list. CNPS and CNDDDB recommend using the name *Fraxinus parryi* as this appears to be the currently accepted taxonomy. *F. parryi* requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

Recommended Actions

Fraxinus parryi

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G3? / S1.2

Proposed CNPS Inventory Record

***Fraxinus parryi* Moran**

Oleaceae

chaparral ash

Element Code: ?
Added to CNPS List 2.2 on 7/31/07

List 2.2

San Diego; Baja CA

Chaparral; 213-620 meters.

Shrub, blooms March-May.

Not in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). California plants sometimes called *F. jonesii*, *F. trifoliata*, or *F. dipetala* var. *trifoliata*. See *Aliso* 20(1): 17-20 for revised nomenclature.