

Added to List 2.2 on 1/6/09

Rare Plant Status Review: *Galium proliferum*

New Add to List 2.2

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September 11, 2008

Background

Galium proliferum is an annual herb in the Rubiaceae. *G. proliferum* has long been recognized as native to California and is included in Munz's *A Flora of California* (1959), *The Jepson Manual* (1993), *The Jepson Desert Manual* (2003), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd edition). *G. proliferum* is distinguished from other annual *Galium* taxa of California's deserts based on floral (*G. proliferum* generally has 4 corolla lobes) and vegetative characteristics (leaves in whorls of 2-4). It flowers between March and June, and sometimes during fall in response to summer rains.

G. proliferum grows in rocky areas on limestone soils in Joshua-tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats from 1190 to 1570 meters in elevation.

In California, *G. proliferum* is known from approximately 11 occurrences in San Bernardino and San Diego counties. According to Jim Andre (pers. comm. 2008), in California *G. proliferum* is rare in the eastern Mojave Desert, known from only scattered occurrences in the Clark, Kingston, and Mescal Mountain Ranges, Providence Mountains, and Ivanpah Valley near Primm, NV. *G. proliferum* is also known from Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Texas, and northern Mexico. It is ranked as a G5 taxon by NatureServe, and is ranked as S2? (Vulnerable) in Utah. More detailed location information for some occurrences is needed to correctly map *G. proliferum*. Little information is currently available about the population size of *G. proliferum* at most of the known occurrences, but population sizes have been observed to vary considerably from year to year. Plants may not germinate at all during dry years. The *Jepson Desert Manual* (2003) states that *G. proliferum* is, "very uncommon."

G. proliferum is threatened by grazing, mining, and proposed solar energy development projects (J. Andre, pers. comm. 2008). Land ownership at the occurrences of *G. proliferum* is not currently known.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Galium proliferum* be added to List 2.2.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G5 / S2

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Galium proliferum Gray

desert bedstraw

Rubiaceae

List 2.2

San Bernardino, San Diego; Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, [Baja California](#)

Clark Mountain (249D) 3511555, Mescal Range (226A) 3511545, Blackwater Mine (274D) 3511577, Horse Thief Springs (274C) 3511578, Pachalka Spring (249C) 3511556, Jamul Mountains (010B) 3211668, Fountain Peak (176A) 3411585

Joshua-tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland / rocky, limestone; elevation 1190-1570 meters.

Annual herb. Blooms March-June

Known in California from fewer than 15 occurrences. Threatened by grazing, mining, and solar energy development projects.