

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Loeseliastrum depressum***

**New Add to List 2.3 4.3**

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Changes made since the original status review appear in blue.

**Background**

*Loeseliastrum depressum* is an annual herb in the Polemoniaceae. *L. depressum* has long been recognized as native to California and is included (as *Ipomopsis depressa*) 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* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) (D. Wilken, pers. comm. 2008). *L. depressum* is distinguished from closely-related taxa based on floral and leaf characteristics. It flowers between May and July.

*L. depressum* is known from sandy or gravelly slopes and washes in Mojavean desert scrub, Great Basin scrub (*Artemisia tridentata*, and *Atriplex confertifolia* plant communities), and pinyon and juniper woodland habitats from 1220 to 2100 meters in elevation (D. Wilken, pers. comm. 2008).

In California, *L. depressum* is known from approximately 17 occurrences in Inyo, Mono, Lassen, and San Bernardino Counties. It is known from the Owens Valley, the White Mountains, the Mojave Desert, and from one location in Honey Lake Valley, in eastern Lassen County. *L. depressum* is also known from Nevada (where it is more common), and Utah. It is ranked as a G5 (Secure) by NatureServe, is unranked (SNR) in Nevada, and is ranked S1S2 (Imperiled) in Utah. According to Dieter Wilken (pers. comm. 2008) *L. depressum* "may be either poorly collected or insufficiently reported. I suspect that it grows in areas that are not actively visited or collected, except perhaps in exceptional years. Because it is an annual, somewhat small in size, with inconspicuous flowers, and flowers relatively early in the season, it may be neglected except in years of above normal precipitation. In "average" years most plants are rather small, only a few cm tall, and then with only a few flowers." Suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of *L. depressum* should be searched for additional occurrences.

Since herbarium specimens are the main source of location information for most of the known occurrences, some sites are vague. More detailed location information for some occurrences is needed to correctly map *L. depressum*. Little information is currently available about the population size of *L. depressum* at most of the known occurrences.

No information about threats to *L. depressum* in California is currently known. The land ownership of most occurrences of *L. depressum* is also unknown; however, the range of the species contains a significant amount of publicly-

owned land managed by the US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *L. depressum* be added to ~~List 2.3~~ 4.3.

### **Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS ~~List 2.3~~ 4.3

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G5 / S3?

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.

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### **Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Loeseliastrum depressum* (M.E. Jones ex A. Gray) J.M. Porter & L.A. Johnson  
Polemoniaceae

~~List 2.3~~ 4.3

Inyo, Lassen, Mono, San Bernardino; Nevada, Utah

Lone Pine (351D) 3611851, Chidago Canyon (432C) 3711854, Deep Springs

Lake (412D) 3711831, Blackrock (372B) 3611882, Chalfant Valley (432D)

3711853, White Mtn. Peak (432A) 3711863, Poleta Canyon (413D) 3711833,

Laws (413A) 3711843, Spencer Creek (620D) 4012031, Lucerne Valley (131B)

3411648, Yermo (181A) 3411687

Mojavean desert scrub, Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland / sandy or gravelly; elevation 1220-2100 meters.

Annual herb. Blooms May-July