

Rare Plant Status Review: *Pickeringia montana* var. *tomentosa*
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Background

Pickeringia montana var. *tomentosa* is a rhizomatous shrub in the Fabaceae that occurs in chaparral areas from 0 to 1700 meters in elevation. This variety can be distinguished from variety *montana* by its strigose to tomentose hairs and by its abundant fruits. Variety *montana* is glabrous to inconspicuously strigose, and fruits are rarely abundant. *The Jepson Manual* (1993) mentions that "varieties intergrade but are geographically separate". Based on the description of the varieties in *The Jepson Manual* (1993), it would appear that plants in San Bernardino County are likely not variety *tomentosa*. This is because species from the San Bernardino Mountains have been described as "sparsely pubescent" and at least some of these populations have been observed to not produce seeds. Plants from San Diego County are described as "distinctly tomentose" and produce seeds regularly. Based on these observations on *P. montana* var. *tomentosa*, it seems possible that plants collected from the San Bernardino Mountains are intermediate forms between the two varieties. However, until further research can be done into these two varieties and until additional evidence suggests otherwise, we propose the listing of both the "distinct" variety of *tomentosa* and those individuals which appear to be intermediate forms from San Bernardino County under the name *Pickeringia montana* var. *tomentosa*.

The "distinct" variety *tomentosa* is known from approximately 30 occurrences collected in San Diego, Orange, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties. Populations from Otay Mountain appear to be doing well after the Otay fire burned the majority of the mountain (pers. comm. Fred Roberts). An additional 8 occurrences were identified from herbarium specimens as variety *tomentosa* but because they are from San Bernardino County, they likely represent specimens that are intermediate between the two varieties. Due to the small number of known occurrences in California, this species requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 4.3

CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G5T2T4 / S2S4.3

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDB. Please mention which list you feel this species should be placed on and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Pickeringia montana Nutt. var. *tomentosa* (Abrams) I.M. Johnst.

Fabaceae

"Montana chaparral pea"

List 4.3

Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego; Baja California

007A [In-ko-pah Gorge/3211661], 009A [Morena Reservoir/3211665], 009B [Barrett Lake/3211666], 009C [Tecate/3211656], 010A [Dulzura/3211667], 010B [Jamul Mountains/3211668], 010C [Otay Mesa/3211658], 010D [Otay Mountain/3211657], 020C [Viejas Mountain/3211676], 020D [Descanso/3211675], 050A [Pechanga/3311741], 051A? [Fallbrook/3311743], 069C [Siiton Peak/3311754], 087C? [Black Star Canyon/3311776], 106A [Keller Peak/3411721], 106B [Harrison Mountain/3411722], 107A [San Bernardino North/3411723], 132D [Butler Peak/3411731], 106A [Keller Peak/3411721], 136C [Condor Peak/3411832]
Chaparral / gabbroic, granitic, clay; elevation 0-1700 meters.
Shrub (rhizomatous, evergreen), blooms May-August.
Plants from San Bernardino County may be intermediate to *ssp. montana*. See *Bull. Torr. Bot. Club* 34: 263 (1907) for original description and *Contrib. Gray Herb.* 68: 84 (1923) for revised nomenclature.