

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *napensis***  
**Proposed New Add to List 1B.1**  
**Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)**  
**December 18, 2008**

**Background**

*Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* is a California endemic, herbaceous perennial in the Malvaceae. This taxon was originally discovered by Jake Ruygt in 1992 and was recently described by Steven R. Hill in the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 2(2):783-791 (2008) (the publication is available online at: [http://www.brit.org/fileadmin/Public...RIT2\\_2\\_01.pdf](http://www.brit.org/fileadmin/Public...RIT2_2_01.pdf)), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd edition). According to Hill (2008), *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* is similar to *S. hickmanii* ssp. *viridis* but differs in its, "deeply lobed leaves." Deeply lobed leaves are also found in *S. hickmanii* ssp. *anomala*, but, "the new subspecies differs from that by its smaller bracts that are considerably shorter than the calyx, the fewer stems per plant, the essentially unbranched inflorescence, and its rather different habitat and range." Please see the link to the published description (above) for a revised taxonomic key including this new taxon. *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* flowers between April and June.

According to Hill (2008), *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis*, "is a plant of open mixed and chamise chaparral in rocky rhyolitic soils." Plants are found growing in an area, "with bare soil and abundant coarse gravel at a site where water puddles ephemerally following rain." Species found growing in the immediate vicinity of *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* include *Mimulus bolanderi*, *M. rattanii*, *Navarretia heterodoxa*, and *Phacelia suaveolens*. Chaparral vegetation in which *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* occurs is characterized by *Adenostoma fasciculatum*, *Arctostaphylos canescens*, *A. glandulosa*, *A. stanfordiana*, *Ceanothus purpureus*, *Pickeringia montana*, *Quercus wislizenii* var. *frutescens*, and *Rhamnus californica*. *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* grows from approximately 415-610 meters in elevation.

*S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* is presently known from only 2 occurrences in Napa County. One occurrence, represented by a single herbarium specimen collected by Milo Baker in 1942, is located west of St. Helena. The other, more recently documented occurrence is located near Mt. George, approximately 4 mi east of Napa. Hill (2008) states that, "the total number of plants is incompletely known, but the number was approximated at 30 individuals (Ruygt, pers. comm.)." Attempts should be made to re-locate the historical occurrence west of St. Helena, and suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* should be searched for additional occurrences. The occurrence of *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* near Mt. George is located on private land and is threatened by conversion to vineyards.

Based on this information CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *S. hickmanii* ssp. *napensis* be added to CNPS List 1B.1.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.1

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G1 / S1

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**

*Sidalcea hickmanii* Greene ssp. *napensis* S.R. Hill

Napa checkerbloom

Malvaceae

List 1B.1

Napa

Mt. George (499C) 3812231, Calistoga (517D) 3812255

Chaparral / rhyolitic; elevation 415-610 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms April-June.

Known from only 2 occurrences. Threatened by agriculture. See *J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas* 2(2): 783-791 (2008) for original description.