

Rare Plant Status Review: *Teucrium cubense* ssp. *depressum*
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Background

Teucrium cubense ssp. *depressum* is an herbaceous annual in the Lamiaceae. It has long been recognized as a taxon native to California (previously treated as *T. depressum*), is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd ed.-pending verification from the JM2 author). *T. cubense* ssp. *depressum* is distinguished from the other *Teucrium* taxon that grows in California (*T. glandulosum*, a CNPS List 2.3 plant), based on its annual growth habit, and branching and floral characteristics. *T. cubense* ssp. *depressum* typically flowers March-May, although flowers may be present in the fall (September-November) in certain years.

T. cubense ssp. *depressum* grows in a variety of habitats including alkaline flats, margins of playas, sand dunes, washes, and within Sonoran Desert scrub habitat from 45 to 400 meters in elevation. In southern Arizona it is often found growing on disturbed sites, including highway road shoulders.

In California, *T. cubense* ssp. *depressum* is known from approximately 6 occurrences in Imperial and Riverside Counties. Since herbarium specimens are the main source for most of the known locations, many of the sites are vague. More detailed location information for most occurrences is needed to correctly map *T. cubense* ssp. *depressum*. *T. cubense* ssp. *depressum* is also known from Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Baja California, Mexico. It is ranked by NatureServe as G4G5T3T4. No information is available about the population size of *T. cubense* ssp. *depressum* at any of the known occurrences.

T. cubense ssp. *depressum* is primarily known from historical herbarium collections. The most recent collection was made in 1986, but plants were observed as recently as 2001 (J. Andre) at Hayfield along California aqueduct. Many of the occurrences are only known from herbarium collections that are now 82 to 103 years old. Attempts should be made to re-locate historical occurrences, and suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of this taxon should be surveyed for new occurrences.

Occurrences of *T. cubense* ssp. *depressum* and its habitat are threatened by proposed solar energy projects.

T. cubense ssp. *depressum* was a “proposed new addition” to List 2 during the development of the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory (6th ed.). At that time it was, for unknown reasons, “postponed until after the 6th ed.” and was not included.

Based on the available information CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Teucrium cubense* ssp. *depressum* be added to List 2.2.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G4G5T3T4 / 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

Teucrium cubense Jacq. ssp. *depressum* McClintock & Epling
dwarf germander

Lamiaceae

List 2.2

Imperial, Riverside

Hayfield (062B) 3311566, Hayfield Spring (062A) 3311565, Hopkins Well (059C) 3311458, Coyote Wells (006B) 3211568

Desert dunes, Playas (margins), Sonoran Desert scrub; elevation 45-400 meters.

Annual herb. Blooms March-May (September-November)

Known in California from fewer than 10 occurrences. Threatened by solar energy development. See *Bull. NY Bot. Gard.* 1: 288 (1899) for original description, and *Brittonia* 5(5): 491-510 (1946) for revised nomenclature.