

Rare Plant Status Review: *Arctostaphylos gabilanensis*

Misa Ward (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB),
with assistance from Lynda Ives (CNPS Intern)

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Background

In the early 1990's, *Arctostaphylos gabilanensis* was independently collected in the Gabilan Mountains along the borders of San Benito and Monterey counties by Dean Taylor and Vern Yadon. In 2003, Taylor and Yadon worked with V. Thomas Parker to refine the description of the species. Parker and Michael C. Vasey described this new species in *Madrono* 51(3): 322-325 (2004). Only two populations of the species are known. The southernmost is small with less than 30 individuals while the northern population is extensive, sparsely covering an area of approximately 1000 ha. The northern population has no current threats and the Nature Conservancy is working on a conservation easement. The southern population is not currently threatened but has the potential for future threats because of its location on private property. Because of its restricted distribution and the small number of individuals, the species requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS inventory and the CNDDDB. The *Madrono* abstract is included below.

Arctostaphylos gabilanensis is a newly described diploid manzanita species from the Gabilan Mountains in San Benito and Monterey counties, CA. This species demonstrates characteristics that suggest a hybrid origin, with auriculate leaves similar to many maritime species, but also with inflorescence characters including large globose fruits and fused nutlets that indicate a relationship to *A. glauca*. Plants are restricted to soils of granitic origin between 300-700 m from just SE of Fremont Peak, south to near the northern boundary of the Pinnacles. We also provide a key to the northern auriculate-leaved *Arctostaphylos* species of the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay regions.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G1 / S1.2

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

Arctostaphylos gabilanensis V.T. Parker and M.C. Vasey

Ericaceae

"Gabilan Mountains Manzanita"

List 1B / RED 3-2-3

San Benito and Monterey

346B [Mount Harlan/3612164]; 346D [Mount Johnson/3612153]

Chaparral, cismontane woodland / granitic; elevation 300-700 meters.

Shrub (evergreen), blooms January.

Known from two occurrences in the Gabilan Mountains. Not in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Madrono* 51(3): 322 (2004) for original description.

Sent to CW, Vasey, Parker