

**Rare Plant Status Review:**  
***Arctostaphylos hookeri* ssp. *franciscana***  
**Name Change to *Arctostaphylos franciscana***  
**List change from List 1A to List 1B.1**  
Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)  
November 10, 2009

*Arctostaphylos hookeri* ssp. *franciscana* is an endemic shrub that is currently included on CNPS List 1A (plants presumed extinct in California). Parker et. al. 2007 (Taxonomic Changes in *Arctostaphylos*, Madroño 54 (2) 148-155) resurrects *A. franciscana* Eastw. based on molecular and morphological data. Consequently, *A. hookeri* ssp. *franciscana* will be treated as a synonym of *A. franciscana* in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the *Jepson Manual*. As a result, we propose that the name of *A. hookeri* ssp. *franciscana* be changed to *A. franciscana* in the CNPS Inventory.

*A. franciscana* was historically known from three occurrences in San Francisco (Laurel Hill Cemetery, Masonic Cemetery, and Mt. Davidson) on serpentinite soils, and has not been documented in the wild since 1942. Individuals of this species, however, do exist in cultivation (all apparently from the Laurel Hill population).

Recently, in October of this year, a single, unidentified *Arctostaphylos* plant was discovered within a road project in the Presidio. Mike Vasey and Tom Parker have since identified the individual as *A. franciscana*. The rediscovery of a species last seen nearly 70 years ago is truly a remarkable event. That said, only one individual has been documented and it exists in a precarious situation located in the middle of a high-profile highway construction project.

Consequently, *A. franciscana* should now be considered extant in California and highly threatened by road construction activities. The fate of the lone individual of *A. franciscana* in the Presidio is not yet known. Discussions including the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, UC Berkeley Botanic Garden, CalTrans, and other knowledgeable individuals are currently underway to determine how best to proceed to conserve *A. franciscana*.

Based on this information, CNPS and CNDDDB conclude that *A. franciscana* should be re-ranked to List 1B.1.

**Recommended Actions**

Change the name of *Arctostaphylos hookeri* ssp. *franciscana* to *Arctostaphylos franciscana*

**CNPS:** Re-rank from CNPS List 1A to List 1B.1

Sent to CW, T. Parker, M. Vasey on 11/10/09

**CNDDDB:** Re-rank from G3TXC, SX to G1, S1

**Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:**

*Arctostaphylos franciscana* Eastw.

Franciscan manzanita

Ericaceae

List 1B.1

San Francisco

San Francisco North (466C), 3712274, San Francisco South (448B)\* 3712264

Coastal scrub (CoScr)(serpentine); elevation 60-300 meters.

Evergreen shrub; blooms Feb-Apr.

Single plant rediscovered in 2009. Previously considered extinct since 1947.

Seriously threatened by road construction. See *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* 32:201 (1905) for original description, and Madrono 54(2): 148-155 (2007) for revised nomenclature.