Added to List 1B.1 on 4/2/2009

Rare Plant Status Review: *Arctostaphylos ohloneana*

New Add to List 1B.~~2~~ 1

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February 13, 2009

Changes made since the original status review appear in blue.

Background

Arctostaphylos ohloneana is an evergreen shrub in the Ericaceae endemic to Santa Cruz County. It was originally discovered by Randy Morgan in 1980, described by Mike Vasey and Tom Parker in *Madroño* 55(3):238-243 (2008), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual*, 2nd Edition (Mike Vasey, pers. comm. 2009). *A. ohloneana* resembles *A. pungens* and *A. manzanita*, but is differentiated based on inflorescence and leaf characteristics. According to Vasey and Parker (2008), "since neither *A. pungens* nor *A. manzanita* occurs in the Santa Cruz Mountains, *A. ohloneana* is all the more remarkable by virtue of its distinctness compared to other nearby species." *A. ohloneana* flowers in February.

A. ohloneana grows in the "Lockheed Chalks" area on siliceous shale (Monterey shale) ridges in maritime chaparral (coastal scrub) habitat from approximately 450 to 530 meters in elevation. Associated species include *A. crustacea*, *A. sensitiva*, *Adenostoma fasciculata*, *Ceanothus cuneatus*, *Vaccinium ovatum*, and *Pinus attenuata*. According to Vasey and Parker (2008), "ridgecrests at the Lockheed Chalks are dominated by a knobcone pine-maritime chaparral community that grades into redwood-tan oak forest in the upper arroyos."

A. ohloneana is only known from four closely-spaced occurrences on northern Ben Lomond Mountain in western Santa Cruz County. The occurrences of *A. ohloneana* are found within a four square kilometer area on, "shale ridges that constitute the watershed divide between the Scott Creek, Mill Creek, and Boyer Creek drainages that lead into the nearby Pacific Ocean approximately 6 km away." According to Vasey and Parker (2008), "despite searches in the surrounding region, we have not been able to locate any other populations of *A. ohloneana* other than one additional occurrence on Lockheed Chalks property bringing the total number of occurrences to four." The total population size of *A. ohloneana* is estimated at approximately 100 individuals. Suitable habitat in the vicinity of the known occurrences of *A. ohloneana* should be surveyed for additional occurrences.

~~There are no known threats to *A. ohloneana*.~~ It is unknown whether activities at the Lockheed Martin missile test facility, the location of all known occurrences of *A. ohloneana*, pose any threat to this species. *A. ohloneana* is possibly threatened by road maintenance and vehicles, and is potentially threatened by *Phytophthora* root rot.

Based on this information CNPS and CNDDB recommend that *A. ohloneana* be added to CNPS List ~~1B.2~~ 1B.1.

Recommended Actions
CNPS: Add to CNPS List ~~1B.2~~ 1B.1
CNDDB: Add to CNDDB 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 CNDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Arctostaphylos ohloneana M.C. Vasey & V.T. Parker
Ohlone manzanita
Ericaceae
List 1B.~~2~~ 1
Santa Cruz
Davenport 408C (3712212)
Coastal scrub, closed cone coniferous forests / Monterey shale; elevation 450-530 meters.
Evergreen shrub. Blooms February.
Known from fewer than 5 occurrences. Possibly threatened by road maintenance and vehicles. Potentially threatened by *Phytophthora* root rot. See *Madroño* 55(3):238-243 (2008) for original description.