

Rare Plant Status Review: *Astragalus hornii* var. *hornii*

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Background

Astragalus hornii var. *hornii* is an annual herb in the Fabaceae. This species is known in California from approximately 21 occurrences from Inyo, Kern, San Bernardino, and Tulare Counties. This species is also known from western Nevada. The other variety of *A. hornii*, *A. hornii* var. *multifidus* is only known from Baja California. *A. hornii* var. *hornii* is included in *The Jepson Manual*. *A. hornii* was once common; however, it was subject to eradication efforts because it was poisonous to sheep and is now nearly eliminated from its historical range. In addition, conversion of its habitat to cultivated farming land has also contributed to the decline of this species. *A. hornii* tends to occur on plains and flats in alkali soils between 60 m and 150 m (850 m in the western Mojave Desert). This species is considered highly threatened due to the eradication efforts practiced in the early 1900's. This plant seems to still be doing well in the Bakersfield area of Kern County; however, it is considered extirpated from the San Bernardino Valley and the specimen from Inyo County was collected in 1919. The occurrence from Tulare County may be from adjacent Kings County; however it is difficult to conclude given the vague locality description of "Tulare Lake" given on the specimen.

A. hornii var. *hornii* is currently known in California from 21 occurrences (with only 5 occurrences documented in the last 50 years) and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.1

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G2G3 / S2S3.1

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***Astragalus hornii* A. Gray var. *hornii***

Fabaceae

"Horn's milkvetch"

List 1B.1

Inyo, Kern, San Bernardino*, Tulare?; Nevada

189B [Grapevine/3411888], 189C [Frazier Mtn./3411878], 214A [Arvin/3511827], 215A [Conner/3511921], 216B [Taft/3511924], 217A [Fellows/3511925], 239C [Lamont/3511838], 240C [Stevens/3511932], 240D [Gosford/3511931], 242C [Reward/3511936], 265B [Lost Hills NW/3511966], 351A [Union Wash/3611861]

Meadows and seeps, playas / lake margins, alkaline; elevation 60-850 meters.

Annual herb, blooms May-October.

Element Code:

Subject to eradication efforts in early 1900's because it was poisonous to sheep. Threatened by habitat alteration. See *Proceedings of the California Academy of Arts* 7: 398 (1868) for original description.

Draft, Send to ES/D and GV