

**Added to CNPS Inventory on June 1, 2011**

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Boechera ultraalsa***  
**Proposed New Add to Rank 1B.1, G1 / S1**  
Aaron Sims (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)  
April 27, 2011

**Background**

*Boechera ultraalsa* is a perennial herb in the Brassicaceae known only from one occurrence in Lake County, California. It is included in the *Flora of North America* (Volume 7), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* (available online at: [http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/tjm2/review/treatments/brassicaceae\\_all.html#85542](http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/tjm2/review/treatments/brassicaceae_all.html#85542)). Since the only known collection of *B. ultraalsa* is in fruit, its ploidy level and reproductive mode cannot be determined; however, due to its distinctive morphological characteristics, Windham and Al-Shehbaz (2006) "... cannot hypothesize a hybrid origin and, therefore, conclude that it must be a sexual diploid." *Boechera ultraalsa* was originally identified as *Arabis (Boechera) platysperma*, but is easily distinguished from that species by having basal leaves with long-stalked hairs (generally 0.25-0.5 mm vs. 0.1-0.25 mm) and fruits with parallel edges that are not undulate or constricted between the seeds. *Boechera ultraalsa* is thought to flower from June to July.

*Boechera ultraalsa* occurs in rocky soil of upper montane coniferous forest at an approximate elevation of 1,800 meters.

*Boechera ultraalsa* is known only from the type locality on the southwest side of Snow Mountain, just above the east side of Bear Creek (L. R. Heckard and J. C. Hickman 5818, JEPS80848). Additional records of *Arabis (Boechera) platysperma* from Snow Mountain (particularly L. R. Heckard and J. C. Hickman 5558, JEPS80319 and J. D. Jokerst 1645, CHSC36975) should be annotated; and future surveys of *B. ultraalsa* within the vicinity of the Snow Mountain Wilderness should be conducted in attempts to update this historic record, in addition to potentially discovering new occurrences.

Threats to *B. ultraalsa* are unknown, however with only one known occurrence it should be considered of conservation concern.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS 1B.1

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB 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 CNDDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

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**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Boechera ultraalsa* Windham & Al-Shehbaz

Snow Mountain rockcress

Brassicaceae

Rank 1B.1

Lake

Potato Hill (565D) 3912237

Upper montane coniferous forest/rocky; elevation 1800 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms Jun-Jul.

Known from only one occurrence on Snow Mtn. Previously identified as *Arabis* (*Boechera*) *platysperma*. See *Harvard Papers in Botany* 11(1):61-88 (2006) for original description.