

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Boechera yorkii***  
Misa Ward (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)  
February 11, 2005

## **Background**

---

*Boechera yorkii* was recently discovered by its namesake Dana York in 2000. This species has been recently described by Steve Boyd in *Madrono* 51(4): 387-392 (2004). "Last Chance rock cress" is known from only 2 occurrences, both within the Last Chance Range, just south of Last Chance Mountain. It requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and CNDDDB. The *Madrono* abstract is included below.

*Boechera yorkii* S. Boyd is described as a new species. It is a narrow endemic from the Last Chance Range in Death Valley National Park, Inyo County, California, apparently restricted to carbonate substrate. *Boechera yorkii* is distinguished from all other *Boechera* taxa in the Death Valley region by having reflexed flowers and yellow petals with brick-red tips (rarely all yellow or all brick-red) rather than all white, pinkish, purple, or some combination of these. Conservation concerns are limited as all currently known populations occur in a relatively inaccessible area, entirely within Death Valley National Park boundaries.

## **Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G1 / S1.3

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**

---

*Boechera yorkii* S. Boyd

"Last Chance rock cress"

**List 1B / RED 3-1-3**

Inyo

410C [Last Chance Mtn / 3711736]

Pinyon and juniper woodland, Great Basin scrub / rock outcrops, carbonate; elevation 2220-2410 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms May.

Known from only two occurrences near Last Chance Mountain. Not in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Madrono* 51(4): 387 (2004) for original description.