

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Cirsium arizonicum* var. *tenuisectum***

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**Background**

*Cirsium arizonicum* var. *tenuisectum* is a perennial herb in the Asteraceae. This species is known in California from approximately 3 occurrences in the New York Mountains of eastern San Bernardino County. This species is also known from the Spring Mountains in Nevada. The name *Cirsium nidulum* has long been misapplied to this species. In *SIDA* 21 (1): 207-219 (2004) and in the *Flora of North America* treatment, David Keil classifies *C. nidulum* as a synonym of *C. arizonicum* var. *arizonicum* with the exception of the New York Mountains, CA and Spring Mountains, NV populations of *C. nidulum* which he has classified as the distinct taxon, *C. arizonicum* var. *tenuisectum*.

*C. arizonicum* var. *tenuisectum* occurs in rocky slopes, canyons, and roadsides in pine-oak-juniper woodlands between 1500 meters and 2800 meters in elevation. The *Flora of North America* mentions that this taxon is of conservation concern. The range of *C. arizonicum* var. *tenuisectum* overlaps with *C. eatonii* var. *clokeyi* in Nevada; however, no hybrids are known. *C. arizonicum* var. *tenuisectum* is currently known in California from 3 occurrences and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G5T2 / S1.2

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**

***Cirsium arizonicum*** (A. Gray) Petrak var. ***tenuisectum*** D.J. Keil

Asteraceae

"desert mountain thistle"

List 1B.2

San Bernardino; Nevada

200A [Pinto Valley/3511523], 225D [Ivanpah/3511533]

Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland / rocky; elevation 1500-2800 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms June-November.

Known in California only from the New York Mountains of San Bernardino County. The name *Cirsium nidulum* has long been misapplied to this species. May be distinctive enough to be its own taxon and not a variety of *C. arizonicum*. See *SIDA* 21(1): 210 (2004) for original description.