

Changed from California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 to 1B.2 on October 25, 2011**Rare Plant Status Review: *Cryptantha dissita*****Proposed rank change from 1B.1, G5T1 / S1.1 to 1B.2, G2 / S2**

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Background

Cryptantha clevelandii var. *dissita* was added to the CNPS Inventory (5th Edition) in 1994. It recently underwent a taxonomic name change in the Inventory to *Cryptantha dissita*, following the new treatment in *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* (*TJM 2*; available online at:

http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/tjm2/review/treatments/boraginaceae_may_6.html#91322). This treatment was based on extensive field work and exhaustive review of herbarium specimens (R. Kelly pers. comm. 2011). The taxon underwent a non-substantive name change in the Inventory because the old and new treatments were synonymous, as noted in *TJM 2*. However, the review of herbarium specimens for the *TJM 2* treatment extended the known range for *Cryptantha dissita*. Rather than being restricted to the southern Inner North Coast Ranges (Hickmann 1993), *C. dissita* is now also known from the eastern Klamath Ranges and the southeastern Outer North Coast Ranges (*TJM 2*). Plants from those regions which were previously identified as *Cryptantha clevelandii*, *C. clevelandii* var. *clevelandii*, or *C. clevelandii* var. *florosa* are now identified as *C. dissita*. The varieties of *C. clevelandii* are only known from more southerly locales, ranging from central western California to as far south as Baja California. In the regions where the ranges of *C. dissita* and *C. clevelandii* var. *florosa* meet, such as in Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, and Sonoma counties, new collections on serpentine should be carefully identified to determine taxonomic status. *Cryptantha dissita* is distinguished from both varieties of *C. clevelandii* by its lack of branches above the middle of the plant, its densely soft calyx hairs (as opposed to minute, bristly calyx hairs), and its strong affinity for serpentine (Consortium of California Herbaria 2011, *TJM 2*, Rodriguez-Rojo et al. 2001). While it was previously known from Lake, Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma counties, additional occurrences have extended the range into Colusa, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties.

Cryptantha dissita is now known to be more common than previously thought, but a recent review of herbarium collections, CNDDDB data, and other sources of information only increased the total number of known occurrences from 10 to 27 (see attached "Localities" list). In general, we like to see at least 50 occurrences ranked either good or excellent before considering a taxon for down-ranking from CRPR 1B or 2.

Cryptantha dissita can be difficult to identify in the field (E. Dean pers. comm. 2011), and while also considering its recent range extension, additional populations are likely to be found in the future. If upcoming field surveys for *C.*

dissita result in a considerable increase of known occurrences, its rarity and threat status will be re-evaluated at that time.

Seven of the newly documented occurrences of *C. dissita* are found on Walker Ridge, an area which is slated for wind energy development. In acknowledgement of its broader range, while also considering its current total threats, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend changing the threat rank of *C. dissita* from .1 to .2.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Re-rank from California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 to 1B.2

CNDDDB: Re-rank from G5T1/S1.1 to G2 / S2

Revised CNPS Inventory Record

Cryptantha dissata I.M. Johnst.

serpentine cryptantha

Boraginaceae

Rank 1B.2

Colusa, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma

Capell Valley (499B) 3812242, Cloverdale (535D) 381237, Detert Reservoir

(517A) 3812265, Highland Springs (534B) 3812288, Hough Springs (548A)

391225, Jimtown (518A) 3812267, Kelseyville (534A) 3812287, Knoxville (532D)

3812273, Lakeport (549C) 3912218, Leesville (547B) 3912224, Whispering

Pines (533C) 3812276, Wilbur Springs (547C) 3912214

Chaparral (serpentinite)

Annual herb. Blooms April to June.

Potentially threatened by development. See *C. clevelandii* in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). See *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* 20:383 (1939) for original description.