

Rare Plant Status Review:

Cryptantha excavata

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Cryptantha excavata is an annual herb in the Boraginaceae that is currently on CNPS List 4. This species has been included on a CNPS List since the first edition of the CNPS Inventory in 1974. The Consortium of CA Herbaria has 5 occurrences (7 specimens) of this species with the most recent specimen from 1968 and there are no additional collections at the California Academy of Sciences herbarium or at the Humboldt State University Herbarium. This species was nominated for an upgrade in status by Ron Kelley, who is the *Cryptantha* author for the new edition of *The Jepson Manual*. Ron Kelley mentions that this species has not been collected since 1968. *C. excavata* occurs in sandy, gravelly soils in dry streambanks and woodlands between 100 and 500 meters in elevation. *C. excavata* is a California endemic with specimens collected from Colusa (2 occurrences), Lake (1 occurrence), Mendocino (1 occurrence), and Yolo Counties (1 occurrence). Most of the locations are very vaguely described and at least two may not even be mappable by CNDDDB.

Like many species of *Cryptantha*, *C. excavata* is differentiated from other similar species through various nutlet characteristics. *C. excavata* generally has a single nutlet with a roughened surface. The nutlets are horizontal and bent and have the nutlet groove expanded at the base into a large triangular deeply excavated scar with 3 straight sides. In addition, *C. excavata* has a calyx that is distinctly bristly on the midrib.

Since this species has been on a lower priority CNPS list for more than 30 years with no new information submitted to CNPS or CNDDDB, it seems appropriate to raise the status of this species. While this species is present in 4 counties, *C. excavata* has only been documented at 5 localities with at least 2 of these localities too general to map. Due to the small amount of information available on the distribution of this species, the small number of localities, and the length of time it has been on a lower CNPS list with no new information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that its status be raised from List 4 to List 1B.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Re-rank from CNPS List 4.3 to CNPS List 1B.3.

CNDDDB: Re-rank from CNDDDB G3 S3.3 to G2 S2.3.

Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:

Cryptantha excavata Brandegee

“deep-scarred cryptantha”

Boraginaceae

List 1B.3

Colusa, Lake, Mendocino, Yolo

547C [Wilbur Springs/3912214], 563C [Lodoga/3912234], 566B? [Foster Mountain/3912342]

Element Code: PDBOR0A0W0

Moved from CNPS List 4.3 to CNPS List 1B.3 on 8/15/07

Cismontane woodland (sandy, gravelly, dry streambanks); elevation 100-500 meters.

Herb (annual), blooms April-May.

Need quads for Lake and Yolo Counties. Many collections old; need field surveys. See *Bot. Gaz.* 27: 452 (1899) for original description.

Sent to NW, Ron Kelley- 6/15/07