

Rare Plant Status Review:
Ericameria palmeri* var. *palmeri
List change from List 2.2 to 1B.1

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June 22, 2009

Ericameria palmeri var. *palmeri* is an evergreen shrub in the Asteraceae. *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* occurs in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats from approximately 30 to 600 meters in elevation. According to Vince Scheidt (pers. comm. 2009), "*E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* is often found within upland associations well above (but near) riparian corridors, although other stands are found far from riparian habitats." *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* is distinguished from other *Ericameria* taxa based on leaf, stem, and phyllary characteristics. *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* flowers between July and September. It is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993), *The Flora of North America* (Vol. 20), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd Edition).

E. palmeri (no infraspecific taxa) was first included on List 4 (Plants Rare in California, Common Elsewhere) in the 2nd Edition (1980) of the CNPS Inventory. *E. palmeri* ssp. *palmeri* was included on List 2 (Plants Rare or Endangered in California, but More Common Elsewhere) in the 3rd (1984), 4th (1988), 5th (1994), and 6th (2001) edition of the CNPS Inventory. *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* is currently included on List 2.2 of the CNPS Inventory.

E. palmeri var. *palmeri* ranges from near El Rosario in the state of Baja California Norte, Mexico north to central San Diego County. The CNDDDB currently tracks 16 occurrences of *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri*, all of which occur in western San Diego County. An analysis of unprocessed survey forms and herbarium records in the Consortium of California Herbaria indicates that there are currently 33 documented localities of *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* in San Diego County. The San Diego Natural History Museum contains 18 specimens of *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* from 16 locations in the western portion of northern Baja California. Population data and trends for most occurrences of *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* are unknown. Jon Rebman (pers. comm. 2009) states that it "can be very rare in the field with only one plant here or there." Additionally, Vince Scheidt (pers. comm. 2009) indicates that, "of the dozen or so occurrences... (he has) discovered, nearly all consist of less than 25 individuals."

The CNPS Inventory currently indicates that *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* is threatened by development. The CNDDDB indicates that *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* is also threatened by "road/trail construction/maintenance." Jon Rebman (pers. comm. 2009) states that he "can not say if it is losing ground in our area, but it is definitely not very common and its habitat is always pretty impacted by roads, trails non-native plants." Furthermore, in Baja California, "the impacts are going
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on and are probably even worse. The urban corridor part of Baja Ca is developing at an alarming rate and the flatter areas are definitely being hit the hardest.”

Out of 16 CNDDDB element occurrences of *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* three are ranked as either “good” or “excellent.” The occurrence ranks for four occurrences are considered “fair” or “poor”, and the rank is unknown for nine occurrences. Seven out of 16 occurrences are considered “historic” by CNDDDB (these occurrences have not been documented for at least 20 years). Additionally, a number of localities not included in the CNDDDB, but documented in the attached localities spreadsheet, are known only from historical herbarium collections (nine have not been documented from between 53 and 92 years).

Field work is needed to determine if *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* is extant at all known localities in San Diego County and adjacent Baja California. Additionally, studies are needed to determine population trends and the extent of threats at all extant occurrences.

Plants on CNPS List 2 are considered Rare, Threatened or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere. Plants on CNPS List 1B are considered Rare, Threatened or Endangered in California and elsewhere, and are generally known from fewer than 50 total (including occurrences outside of California) extant occurrences with “good” or “excellent” occurrence ranks.

Based on the rarity of and threats to *E. palmeri* var. *palmeri* CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that it be re-ranked from List 2.2 to List 1B.1.

Recommended Action

CNPS: Re-rank from CNPS List 2.2 to List 1B.1

CNDDDB: Keep on CNDDDB G4T2T3, S1

Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:

Ericameria palmeri (A. Gray) H. M. Hall var. *palmeri*

Palmer’s goldenbush, Palmer’s *Ericameria* (alternative)

Asteraceae

List 1B.1

San Diego, Baja California

Barrett Lake (009B) 3211666, Tecate (009C) 3211656, Dulzura (010A) 3211667, Jamul Mountains (010B) 3211668, National City (011A) 3211761, Point Loma (011B) 3211762, Imperial Beach (011D) 3211751, El Cajon (021C) 3211678, Alpine (021D) 3211677, La Mesa (022D) 3211771, San Pasqual (034C)

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Element Code: PDAST3LOC1
Changed from CNPS List 2.2 to 1B.1 on 2009-08-12

3311618, Ramona (034D) 3311617, Escondido (035D) 3311711, San Vicente
Reservoir (021B) 3211698

Chaparral, coastal scrub; Elevation 30-600 meters.

Evergreen shrub, blooms (Jul) Sep-Nov.

Threatened by development, road construction, road maintenance, and vehicles.

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