

Rare Plant Status Review: *Eriogonum callistum*
New Add to List 1B.1
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Background

Eriogonum callistum is a California endemic, herbaceous (woody at the base), perennial in the Polygonaceae. This species was discovered by Robert E. Preston in May of 2006, and described by James L. Reveal in SIDA 22(2) 857-861 (2006). Although not included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993), *E. callistum* will be included in the new *Jepson Manual* (2ND Ed.). This taxon is the sole representative within the genus, *Eriogonum*, of the new Section *Lanocephala* of the subgenus Eucycla. Reveal (2006) states that, "the discovery of another undescribed member of *Eriogonum* Michx. (Polygonaceae Juss., subf. *Eriogonoideae* Arn.) from California is not, in itself, a surprise, but one so distinct as to represent a new section...is at least unusual." *E. callistum* is distinguished from other *Eriogonum* taxa based on its growth habit, vegetative characteristics, and its possession of "pilose flowers on hairy pedicels arranged in...capitate inflorescences(s)." *E. callistum* flowers between May and July.

E. callistum occurs on rocky outcrops within openings in mixed-chaparral habitats on limestone-derived soils from 1400 to 1500 meters in elevation. Associated taxa found growing with *E. callistum* include *Adenostoma fasciculata*, *Amelanchier utahensis*, *Arctostaphylos glauca*, *Arctostaphylos parryana*, *Hesperoyucca whipplei*, *Ceanothus cuneatus*, *Quercus berberidifolia*, *Tauschia parishii*, *Castilleja martinii*, and *Cordylanthus eremicus*.

E. callistum is known solely from three herbarium collections from the Tehachapi Mountains of Kern County near the "Grapevine". The type locality is located approximately 4.3 miles east of Lebec. It is not clear whether these collections are from three separate occurrences or if they are multiple collections from the same occurrence. Reveal (2006) states that, "*Eriogonum callistum* is known only from a few scattered locations that altogether contain 2000 individuals in a variety of age classes."

The only known occurrence(s) of *E. callistum* occur within Tejon Ranch on private land. *E. callistum* was originally discovered during botanical surveys associated with a proposed power plant and transmission lines. *E. callistum* is potentially threatened by urban and energy development. Suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of *E. callistum* should be searched for additional occurrences.

Based on this information CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Eriogonum callistum* be added to CNPS List 1B.1.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.1

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G1 / S1

Sent to GV, SN, SW, ES/D, J. Reveal, I Anderson on 9/8/08

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Eriogonum callistum Reveal

Tehachapi buckwheat

Polygonaceae

List 1B.1

Kern

Lebec (189D) 3411877

Chaparral / openings, rocky, limestone ; elevation 1400-1500 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms May-July.

Known from fewer than 5 occurrences. Potentially threatened by urban and energy development.

Not in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). See SIDA 22(2): 857-861 (2006) for original description.