Rare Plant Status Review: *Eriogonum mensicola*

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Background

*Eriogonum mensicola* is a perennial herb in the Polygonaceae. In the past, *E. mensicola* was treated as *E. panamintense* var. *mensicola* and *E. panamintense* ssp. *mensicola*. In *The Jepson Manual* (1993) it was considered to be a synonym of *E. panamintense*. More recently, *E. mensicola* is included as a full species in *The Jepson Desert Manual* (2002) and *The Flora of North America* (Vol. 5), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd ed.). It is distinguished from other *Eriogonum* taxa based on floral and leaf characteristics. *E. mensicola* flowers between July and September.

*E. mensicola* grows in rocky or gravelly flats and slopes in Great Basin scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and upper montane coniferous forest habitats from 1800 to 2805 meters in elevation.

In California, *E. mensicola* is known from approximately 10 occurrences in Inyo County, and one population in Sheep Mountains of Clark County, Nevada. In California, *E. mensicola* is known primarily from the White and Inyo Mountains, and the Panamint and Coso Ranges. Since herbarium specimens are the main source for most of the known locations, some of the sites are vague. More detailed location information for some occurrences is needed to correctly map *E. mensicola*. *E. mensicola* is ranked by NatureServe as G2G3, and is ranked as S1 (<6 occurrences) in Nevada. No information is available about the population sizes of *E. mensicola* at any of the known occurrences.

*E. panamintense* var. *mensicola* is currently included on the CNPS Considered But Rejected (CBR) List. The CNPS Inventory states that it is, “a synonym of *E. panamintense*, a common taxon.” Based on current taxonomic treatments, this statement is no longer accurate. Communication with experts of California’s desert flora indicates that *E. mensicola* may be more common than the number of herbarium collections suggest. James Reveal (pers. comm. 2008), however, indicates that *E. mensicola*, “has been collected for some 80 years or so, and that is not a bad record as folks tend to collect it because it is sort of odd-looking.”

No information is available about threats to any of the occurrences of *E. mensicola*. Although the ownership of the occurrences of *E. mensicola* is unknown, much of the land in the range of this species is publicly-owned. Attempts should be made to re-locate historical collections of *E. mensicola*, and suitable habitat within and beyond its known range should be searched to locate and document additional occurrences.
Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDB recommend that *E. mensicola* be added to CNPS List 1B.3. If, however, if reviewers indicate that *E. mensicola* is too common for List 1B, we will consider placing it on List 4.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.3  
CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G2G3 / S2

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 mensicola* S. Stokes  
Pinyon Mesa buckwheat  
Polygonaceae  
List 1B.3  
Inyo; Nevada  
Telescope Peak (302A) 3611721, Maturango Peak NE (303A) 3611723, Cerro Gordo Peak (350D) 3611755, Jackass Canyon (349D) 3611755, Coso Peak (304B) 3611726, White Top Mountain (304B) 3611774  
Pinyon and juniper woodland, Great Basin Scrub, upper montane coniferous forest / rocky or gravelly; elevation 1800-2805 meters.  
Perennial herb. Blooms July-September  
Known in California from fewer than 20 occurrences. See *Leaflets of Western Botany* 3 (1): 15-18 (1941) for original description.